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WARCRAFT®

LEGENDS™

VOLUME FIVE

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TOKYOPOP®

WARCRAFT LEGENDS

VOLUME FIVE

A WARRIOR MADE--PART 2

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STORY SO FAR

Draka was a Frostwolf clan orc born with a frail and weak body. Though loved unconditionally by her parents, the same can't be said for her fellow clan members, who viewed Draka's condition as an embarrassment--so much so that they banished Draka and her parents to the outskirts of the village.

Years later, when Draka was a young woman, she decided to take her destiny into her own hands and restore her family's honor. To do this she sought the council of Mother Kashur, the kind, elderly village shaman. Draka begged Mother Kashur to create a potion or spell to make her stronger and rid her of her shameful, sickly body.

Mother Kashur agreed to help, and requested Draka make an arduous journey to find the three ingredients she would need for the spell: for speed and grace she would need the feather of a windroc, for support of her clan the horn of a talbuk, and finally, for strength and determination, the fur of a clefthoof. With renewed hope for redemption, Draka set out on her dangerous journey.

At first it was difficult even finding shelter and hunting food for herself, but through perseverance Draka gradually developed enough skills and confidence to not only survive, but to face her first challenge--the windroc. Tracking the bird to its nest in Terokkar forest proved difficult as the terrain was harsh, but Draka managed to overcome her fears and confront the bird. Through skills she developed while hunting game for food, Draka was able to spear and kill the bird--and obtain the first ingredient of the spell!

And now, with two more ingredients left, her path to honor has only just begun as the hardest challenges have yet to be conquered...

DRAKA WAS PROUD OF HERSELF. BUT SHE KNEW THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGES STILL LAY AHEAD. THE TALBUK HERD WOULD NOT BE SO EASILY RETRIEVED.
THE TALBUK WERE DANGEROUS NOT BECAUSE OF HOW STRONG THEY WERE INDIVIDUALLY...BUT BECAUSE THEY FOUGHT TOGETHER. IF ONE WAS INJURED, THE REST OF THE HERD WOULD COME TO ITS AID.
THEY ARE NEVER SEPARATED...AND THERE ARE SO MANY IN THE HERD. HOW I UNDERSTAND WHY KILLING A TALBUK BY ONESELF IS A TEST OF ADULTHOOD!
AND IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S SUCH A CHALLENGE FOR HEALTHY YOUNG ORCS OLDER THAN I... HOW WILL I POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO DO IT?
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE IT OUT...SOMEHOW! I CAN'T GIVE UP!

SO FOR THE NEXT TURN OF THE MOON, DRAKA SIMPLY WATCHED THE HERD. SHE SAW WHERE THEY ATE, NOTICED WHEN AND WHERE THEY SLEPT. SHE OBSERVED THEIR PATTERNS AND ROUTINES...
...AND SHE KNEW WHAT TO DO. BUT SHE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ACT SWIFTLY ONCE SHE PUT HER PLAN IN MOTION.
RUMBLE

SNAG
TWANG
BLEAT!!
THWUMP
FOR THE FROSTWOLVES!!
SHUFF
AAAAAHHHHH!
UNNGH!!
THUNK
PANT PANT...
GASP!

WHAT DID I TEACH YOU TO DO, DRAKA?
IF YOU ARE EVER IN DANGER FROM A TALBUK, CHILD, REMEMBER--THEY SUPPORT EACH OTHER. BUT THEY WILL RUN AWAY FROM A POWERFUL PREDATOR WHO HAS KILLED A HERD MEMBER.
TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK AS BIG AND SCARY AS I CAN, MOTHER!
RRRAAAAAGHHHHHHH!!!
...THANK YOU, MOTHER! THANK YOU...
And so Draka was able to obtain the second item she needed for the potion.

The moon waxed and waned yet again before Draka was ready to travel to the shadow of Oshu'gun to hunt the mighty elefhoof.
They were powerful animals, stronger by far than the talbuk or the windroe, and they knew little fear. Many an orc had been trampled beneath the cloven hooves for which the great beasts were named.
Draka knew she would have to use everything she had learned so far if she were to not become one of those orcs. She would have to take her time--observe everything--and make a plan.

FWAP
HMMMMM...

THUNK
!!
SNIRT
CHOMP
GRUNT
STUPID BEAST!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP

YES! I'M TALKING TO YOU, YOU GREAT LUMBERING OAFISH CREATURE!

I, DRAKA, DAUGHTER OF KELKAR, SON OF--

RRRRRR

THOOM

THOOM

-TH-THAT WAS FAST-

RAARRGH!!

NYUH!!

UNGH!

WHEW!

I FELL SO FAR--IT'S SUCH A LONG WAY UP, AND MY BODY ACHES SO MUCH...

AAAHHHHH!

C-COME ON, DRAKA...YOU CAN DO THIS!!

YOU'RE ALMOST D-DONE...JUST GET TO THE TOP, THEN WALK BACK D-DOWN...

...AND CLAIM YOUR VICTORY!!

...THE *LAST ITEM*...

NOW I CAN *RETURN HOME*, GIVE THESE TO MOTHER KASHUR...

...AND FINALLY BECOME A *TRUE FROSTWOLF WARRIOR!!*

WHAT! WHO...?

DRAKA?

YES, IT IS I.

I DID IT, MOTHER KASHUR!

I HAVE SLAIN THE *WINDROC*, THE *TALBUK* AND THE *CLEFTHOOF*, AND I BRING YOU THE FEATHER, THE HORN AND THE FUR THAT YOU ASKED OF ME!

SO YOU DID, CHILD...SO *YOU DID.*

IT IS WELL DONE.

SO...YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU PROMISED?

YOU WILL MAKE ME A POTION THAT WILL MAKE ME A PROUD AND STRONG FROSTWOLF WARRIOR?

NO. I WILL *NOT* MAKE YOU A POTION.

WH-WHAT?! TELL ME *WHY* YOU WILL *NOT* DO THIS?!

I HAVE DONE *EVERYTHING YOU ASKED OF ME!!*

COME WITH ME, DRAKA...AND I WILL *SHOW* YOU WHY.

CLUMSY FEMALE! WHAT--

IT'S THE *SICK LITTLE RABBIT!* I THOUGHT WE'D GOTTEN *RID* OF YOU!!

YOU WILL BE *SILENT.*

WHAT?! NO ONE TALKS TO *ME* LIKE THAT, ESPECIALLY NOT A SICK LITTLE RABBIT WHO--

AAAAAHHHH!

I SAID *BE SILENT!!*

WHA...? HOW DID I...?

COME ALONG CHILD, I GROW NO YOUNGER!

MOTHER KASHUR! I... WHAT...I AM COMING!

AHHHH

THERE IS YOUR ANSWER, DRAKA

REMOVE YOUR CLOAK AND YOUR TRAVELING GARMENTS, AND SEE WHAT THE *SPIRIT OF WATER* HAS TO *SHOW YOU.*

A few months later, at the autumnal Koshharg festival...

...Durokar, son of Garad, future chieftain of the Frostwolf clan and his friend Orgrik Doomhammer of the Blackrock clan, sat face to face with some of the most famous orcs that had ever lived.

Grom Hellscream, young leader of the Warsong clan... Blackhand, chieftain of the Blackrock clan...Kargath Bladefist... Kilrogg Deadeye

GASP!

THAT...IS THAT... *REALLY ME?*

IT IS INDEED CHILD YOUR *WILL*, YOUR *DETERMINATION*, YOUR DESIRE TO *SERVE THE FROSTWOLF CLAN*—THAT IS THE ONLY *MAGIC YOU NEEDED*, DRAKA, DAUGHTER OF KELKAR, SON OF RHAKISH

THE SPIRITS MAY HAVE *BLESSED YOUR QUEST*...BUT IT IS *YOU* WHO HAVE *ACCOMPLISHED YOUR GOAL*. YOU YOURSELF HAVE *EARNED* THE GIFTS OF THE WINDROC, THE TALBUK AND THE CLEFTHOOF—*SPEED AND GRACE*, THE *SUPPORT OF YOUR CLAN* AND *STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION!*

AS WELL AS THE GREAT SHAMAN, NEKROL, AND HIS APPRENTICE GUL'DAN

I THINK THAT *GUL'DAN* WOULD BETTER SERVE HIS PEOPLE IF HE WERE *SET OUT AS BAIT.*

WOW *THAT ONE...* SHE IS A *WARRIOR BORN.*

WHO ?

YOU UNOBSERVANT *DOG!* THAT ONE THERE! SHE IS A *FROSTWOLF!*

I'D HAVE CLAIMED HER FOR *MYSELF* IF SHE WERE OF MY OWN CLAN !

DRAKA...? NO, ORGRIM. SHE WAS *NOT A WARRIOR BORN.*

SHE IS A WARRIOR MADE.

A WARRIOR MADE IN EARTH

BY HER OWN HAND.

DRAKA MACE OF DUROTAN.

MOTHER

OF THRALL.

END

WARCRAFT

LEGENDS

VOLUME FIVE

WARRIOR: UNITED

WRITTEN BY GRACE RANDOLPH

PENCILS BY ERICA AWANO
INKS BY TOMAS AIRA & LEANDRO RIZZO
TONES BY GONZALO DUARTE

RETOUCH ARTIST & LETTERER [illegible]

STORY SO FAR

The Wildhammer dwarves are a close-knit clan, yet one of their own, a dwarf named Kardan, was raising a human girl named Lieren. Kardan kept the details surrounding Lieren's past a secret, even to Lieren herself. And though he raised her as any loving father would, Lieren still felt like an outsider, which lead to an obsession with uncovering her past.

One night Lieren secretly followed Kardan to the high elf retreat Quel'Danil, where she made a shocking discovery she had a twin sister named Loania. Raised by a high elf named Voldana, Loania--just like Lieren--had no knowledge of her past, or that she had a twin sister.

With their ruse revealed, it was with guilty hearts that Kardan and Voldana told the girls how they accompanied their birth father, a human paladin named Dougan, on his mission to rescue villagers from the cursed tower of Karazhan. Unfortunately, brave hearts and noble intentions were not enough to defeat the evil within and they were forced to retreat...but not before Dougan was killed in the process. Kardan and Voldana sadly delivered the news to Dougan's wife but, so immense was her grief her mind snapped, rendering her unfit to raise their twin baby girls. And so Kardan and Voldana decided to honor their fallen colleague by raising the twin daughters as their own.

While Lieren and Loania shared little in common besides their appearance, they both insisted on going to see their mother. However, upon arrival at their old home, the twins learned that their mother had died, only to be reborn as one of the undead. The girls set upon the grisly task of finding and freeing their mother from her rotting prison of flesh...by beheading her.

[illegible] with their mother's soul finally [illegible],
Lieren and Loania swore an oath at her grave...

" WHEN WE ARE OLDER

WE SHALL GO TO KARAZHAN AND FREE OUR *FATHER'S SOUL* AS WE HAVE OUR *MOTHER'S*.

IT IS

OUR LEGACY."

EIEEEEEE!!

RAAARRGH!!

OOF!!

UNH!
GWUUUN?!
YAAAAAH!!

TIPX
?!

KWANG
HA! I AM TOO FAST FOR YOU, LIEREN.
YOU CANNOT GET THE JUMP ON ME!!

YES, KEERS
IT APPEARS YOU AND MOZZA HAVE BECOME QUITE SKILLED. !
KWAP!
UNNNH!
F-WAAP

OH! IT SEEMS I'VE LET MY ADRENALINE GET THE BEST OF ME!
LIEREN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHEW
I AM FINE FRIENDS
ALTHOUGH IN THE FUTURE I MUST REMEMBER HOW FOOLISH IT IS TO FIGHT *TWO* WILDHAMMERS AT ONCE!
READY THE AERIE FOR TWO DRAGONHAWKS!
AH YOUR *SISTER* HAS ARRIVED
INDEED!
WISH YOUR LOANNA AND VOLDANA OUR BEST
I SHALL 'TIL TOMORROW'S SPARRING!
LIEREN WAIT
YES ?
I I WISH TO ASK YOU WHAT GOOD DOES *PITY* DO A WARRIOR IN HIS TRAINING?
!!
IT IS TRUE KEERS YOU MIGHT NOT BE THE FASTEST WARRIOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD
BUT YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF AN *EXCELLENT STRATEGIST* FOR HAVING UNCOVERED MY RUSE
AND WHAT RUSE WOULD THAT BE ?
WELL IF I CONTINUE TO *BEST* YOU *BOTH* I FEAR YOU'LL NO LONGER WANT TO *SPAR WITH ME.*
WHAT?! MOZZA AND I ARE YOUR *FRIENDS!* YOU ARE BEING SILLY
BUT ALSO *NICE*
LIKE THE WATER OF THE MIGHTIEST RIVERS THE PASSAGE OF TIME HAS WORN AWAY YOUR HARD EDGES
AND NOW YOU *SHINE A PRECIOUS STONE!*
IT PLEASES ME MUCH TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, KEERS.
IT PLEASES ME MUCH INDEED

THAT NIGHT

SO TELL ME LOANA...

HOW GO YOUR STUDIES IN MAGIC?

I I DO NOT WISH TO TALK OF MY STUDIES BEFORE VOLDANA

YOUR KINDNESS DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED

BUT I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO HEAR OF MAGIC

AS HIGH ELVES NO [redacted] ACTICE MAGIC, WHO *DOES* TUTOR YOU, LORNIA?

THERE IS A HUMAN MAGE WHO VISITS QUEL'DANIL FROM TIME TO TIME

CONSIDERING HE AND LOANA ARE OF THE SAME RACE, I THOUGHT HIM AN EXCELLENT TUTOR

MUNCH

MUNCH

PERHAPS AND WHAT HAS HE BEEN TEACHING HER?

CHEW

ALCHEMY AND THE LIKE ..JUST THE *SIMPLEST OF MAGIC* REALLY, AS HE IS NOT VERY POWERFUL.

!!

ONCE AGAIN, KARDAN, WITH THIS FINE MEAL YOU HAVE PROVEN A MALE CAN BE VICTORIOUS IN THE *KITCHEN* AS WELL AS ON THE *BATTLEFIELD!*

NOW THAT WE HAVE FINISHED MAY MY SISTER AND I RETIRE UPSTAIRS?

SLAM

?

OF COURSE, LIEREN!

YOU ARE BOTH EXCUSED!

MANY THANKS!

GOODNIGHT!

LET US RETIRE BY THE FIRE

LIEREN SEEMS HAPPIER?

SHE DOES AT THAT--AND I AM THANKFUL

IT WOULD SEEM THE GIRLS HAVE BOTH MOVED ON AND ARE BECOMING THE STRONG AND NOBLE WOMEN WE HAD HOPED THEY WOULD

TO *BEST HONOR* THEIR FALLEN PARENTS

I'VE GATHERED EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE *TELEPORTATION SPELL*...!

NOW WHAT OF THE SPELL TO *CONTACT* OUR *FATHER*? HAVE YOU MASTERED IT?

YES BUT ONLY ACROSS A SHORT DISTANCE

THEY HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES *ENOUGH* FOR OUR FAMILY MORE CAN ONLY BE ASKED OF *TRUE BLOOD*.

I AM NOT EVEN SO SURE OF *THAT*, LIEREN.

WOULD OUR FATHER WANT US TO ENDANGER OURSELVES

HOW MUCH *LONGER* ARE WE TO LEAVE OUR FATHER *ABANDONED WITHIN KARAZHAN*?!

LIEREN, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND IT IS AS VOLDANA SAYS

THE HUMAN MAGE KNOWS LITTLE MAGIC AND I MUST *TEACH MYSELF* FROM BOOKS HE BRINGS ME

AND *WHO* DO YOU THINK TEACHES *ME* HOW TO FIGHT *DEMONS* AND *GHOSTS*?!

WE ARE BOTH ON OUR *OWN*, SISTER-- SAVE FOR *EACH OTHER*.

YOU KNOW THAT IS *NOT TRUE* ! WE HAVE VOLDANA AND KARDAN

AND I TIRE OF OUR *LIES* TO THEM PRETENDING TO HAVE *FORGOTTEN OF KARAZHAN* AND OUR *VOW*!

WHEN WE DO NOT EVEN *KNOW* IF HE STILL *LIVES*...?

THEN CAST THE SPELL TO CONTACT OUR FATHER

AND WE SHALL *FIND OUT*!

IT'S WORKING. I FEEL...

I FEEL.

AHHHH!!

LEAVE ME!!!

QUIET, OR YOU WILL GIVE US AWAY!

IS IT PAIN OR FEAR THAT MAKES YOU SCREAM?

BOTH. I S-SAW OUR FATHER

HE WAS IN SO MUCH PAIN.

AND HIS FEAR

LOANA, THIS PROVES THAT HE LIVES!

PAIN AND FEAR ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO THE LIVING, SISTER

THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE

YOU MUST TELEPORT US TO KARAZHAN IMMEDIATELY!

BUT WE KNOW NOT HIS LOCATION WITHIN THE TOWER!

THAT WAS WHY I FIRST MASTERED THE COMMUNICATION SPELL--SO WE WOULD KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!

THEN WE SHALL JUST HAVE TO SEARCH ROOM BY ROOM

SURELY YOU JEST! THEY SAY THE TOWER IS INFINITE AND--

I TIRE OF YOUR DOUBTS! DO YOU WANT TO ABANDON OUR FATHER?!

HE SPOKE TO ME LEREN.
HE SAID TO LEAVE HIM.
I CANNOT DO THAT
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO GO THAT IS YOUR RIGHT
BUT IT ALSO MY RIGHT TO ASK YOU TO TELEPORT ME TO KARAZHAN WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
AS YOU CANNOT ABANDON OUR FATHER I CANNOT ABANDON YOU
AND THUS I WILL PROVIDE WHAT EXTRA PROTECTION I CAN.
ONLY WEAPONS AIDED BY MAGIC ARE USEFUL IN A PLACE LIKE KARAZHAN
READY?
YES
FREEEM
LEREN WAIT!
SURELY THE DOORS ARE
FREEEM
CREEAK
...LOCKED?

OH!

THE ROOM CHANGES!
IT DOES NOT! I SEE NO CHANGE!

YOU ARE DISAPPEARING!!

YOU MAY NOT SEE ME, SISTER

YES I HEAR YOU BUT YOU SEEM SO VERY FAR AWAY
NOTHING ! I BELIEVE THIS TO BE A VISION. AND IF SO, IT COULD BE A

WARNING

THE TIME HAS COME! GUL'DAN, ORDER YOUR WARLOCKS TO DOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS!

MOMENTS FROM NOW THE GATEWAY WILL OPEN--

IT IS MEDIVH HIMSELF

WHO--MEDIVH

QUIET, SISTER, PLEASE

HE SEEMS NOT TO SEE ME OR HEAR US BUT I DARE NOT TEST HIM

AND YOUR HORDE WILL BE RELEASED UPON THIS RIPE--

--UNSUSPECTING WORLD!

NOOOOOO!!!

WHAT IS HAPPENING, LOANIA?!

I. I SEE YOU AGAIN, SISTER

MY VISION IS OVER!

WAS IT A WARNING AS YOU'D SUSPECTED?

IN A WAY I BELIEVE IT WAS.

I SAW MEDIVH, THE FORMER MASTER OF THIS VERY TOWER, OPEN THE DARK PORTAL TO LET INTO AZEROTH GUL'DAN AND THE ORCISH HORDE.

DO THEY COME THIS WAY?!

NO FOR THIS HAPPENED LONG AGO.

I MERELY JUST WITNESSED IT FIRST HAND, WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO SIMPLY WATCH THE HORROR UNFOLD.

WHY DID THIS VISION NOT COME TO ME AS WELL?

I. I AM UNSURE PERHAPS, TRAINED IN MAGIC AS I AM, I AM MORE SUSCEPTIBLE ?

TELL ME DOES IT WORK *BOTH WAYS?*

DO VISIONS ONLY COME TO YOU OR CAN YOU *SEEK THEM OUT* AS WELL?

ARE YOU ASKING IF I CAN SEEK OUT VISIONS OF OUR FATHER?

IF YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR FATHER ONCE INSIDE KARAZHAN, THEN ALL WE NEED DO IS *TRACE THAT PATH* TO FIND HIM

POSSIBLY IF I CONCENTRATE MY THOUGHTS

ARE YOU THINKING OF OUR FATHER NOW?

YES BUT *I SEE HIM!!*

WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

THEY TAKE HIM THIS WAY

HURRY!!

PATIENCE! I SEE THE ROOM NOT AS IT ACTUALLY IS BUT ONLY AS IT *ONCE WAS!*

WAIT DO NOT MOVE

WE ARE NO LONGER *ALONE*

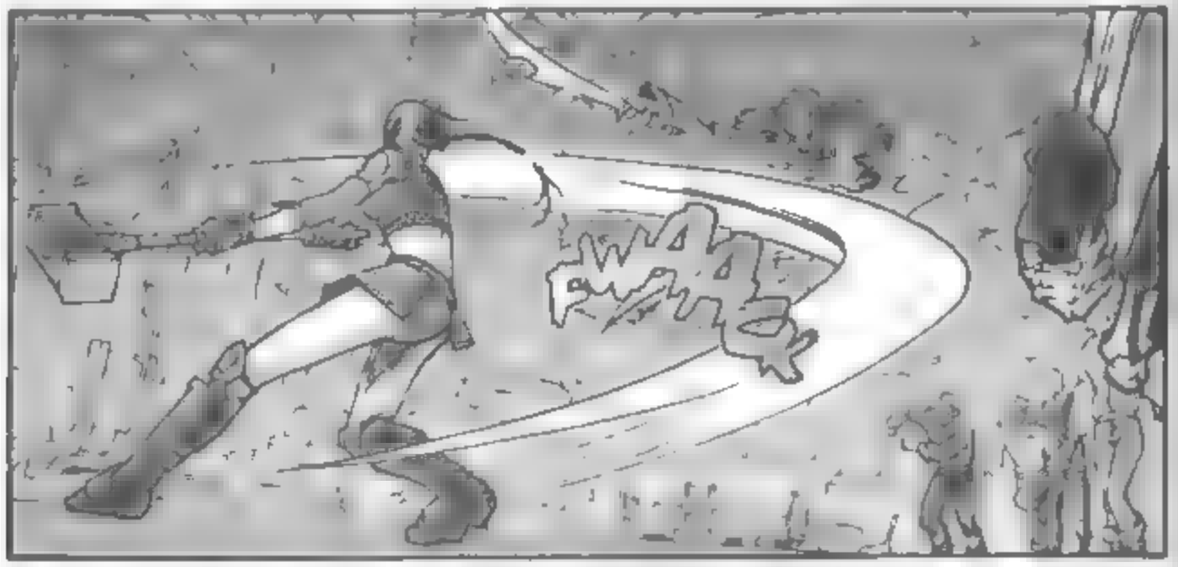
LIEREN. IF I BREAK THIS VISION I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RECALL IT!

THEN *DO NOT LOSE THE VISION.*

I WILL *PROTECT YOU.*

RAARGH!!

NNGGH!!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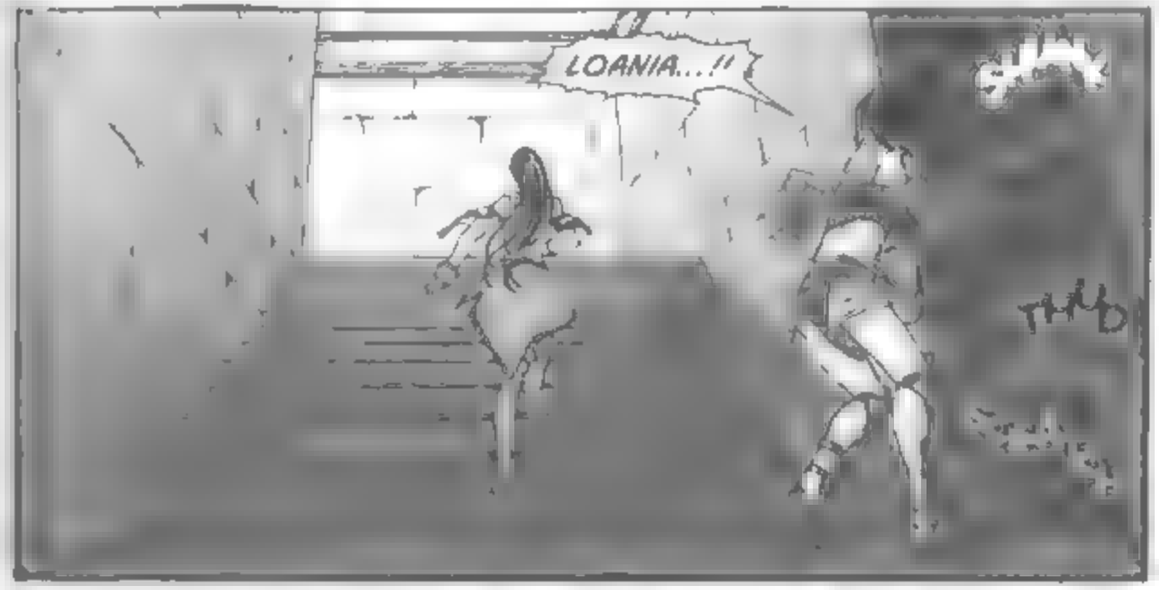

LOANIA...!!
SHAK
THUD

I SEE OUR FATHER FIGHT THE UNDEAD IN THIS ROOM! IS THAT WHO ATTACKS US NOW?!

YOU MUST WAIT FOR ME!!
YOU ARE VULNERABLE WITHIN YOUR VISION!!

LOANIA?!

HE RETREATED!
WHAT?! I DO NOT BELIEVE IT!

I SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
HE RUNS.

THROUGH HERE!

SISTER, I MUST DEMAND YOU--

THOOM

I AM TERESTIAN ILLHOOF
I KILLED THE PALADIN NAMED DOUGAN
JUST AS I AM ABOUT TO KILL HIS ONLY CHILDREN AS WELL

WHAT DO YOU ?
GASP!
AAA.

IT IS YOU WHO SHALL
WHAT ?!

OUR FATHER
IS DEAD.

NO
BUT YOU SAW HIM IN YOUR SPELL, BACK AT AERIE PEAK
IT IT COULD HAVE BEEN A VISION OF ANOTHER T-T ME OR, AS I FEARED
OF HIS GHOST

BY WHOSE HAND DID HE DIE?!
BY MINE.

FORGIVE ME LIEREN, BUT HIS MAGIC IS TOO GREAT
YOU WON'T SURVIVE

RUN, LIEREN!

I BEG YOU, RUN!!

BAM!!

OH NO

NYAAAHHH!!

LOANIA!!

RAAAAH!!

PWANG

N-NO!! G-GO BEFORE SAK' T IS T T TOO LATE

THERE IS NO MAGIC WITHIN YOU

THEREFORE YOU SHALL JOIN YOUR FATHER IN DEATH

I WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN, MONSTER

ALLOW ME

TO ILLUMINATE THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION

YOUR PRIDE ONLY MAKES YOUR DEATH MORE DELICIOUS

FWAAAIN

THWACK

FWIPPP

OHH HHH.

LOOKS LIKE I'M TWO FOR TWO, HUMAN

NEVER! KARAZHAN WILL TAKE FROM ME NO MORE!!

RAAARGH!!

TOK

THUP

HUMAN! YOU DAR--

CRUNCH

RAAAH!!

THUD

SQUEAK

I SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE INSISTED YOU COME HERE WITH ME

NEVERTHELESS, I'M GETTING YOU *OUT* OF THIS TOWER AND THEN WE SHALL SEE HOW I FARE *ALONE!*

HIS ROBES TH THIS SPOT IS A MAGE

THEN PERHAPS HE CAN TELL US WHERE TO FIND OUR FATHER SO THAT WE MAY AT LEAST FREE HIM SINCE AS WE DID OUR MOTHERS

SPEAK YOUR *NAME,* SPIRIT MAGE!

MY *WORD..*

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

C CAREFUL I KNOW H NOT WHO HE IS

IS THAT IS THAT B-BLOOD?

D-D M-MEDIVH DO THIS TO YOU?

HAVE YOU ANGERED MEDIVH?!

ENOUGH ABOUT MEDIVH!

WE HAVE COME TO RESCUE OUR FATHER!

RESCUE

YOUR

FATHER

KRS-THOOM

UNNH!!

AM I NOT A FATHER AS WELL?!

WHY DOES MY SON, MEDIVH, NOT COME FOR ME?!

INSTEAD OF THE PEACEFUL SLEEP OF DEATH, I AM TRAPPED IN KARAZHAN FOREVER!!

K-KILL YOU.

KRS-SH

JUST AS I THOUGHT! CHILDREN ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED!

NYAAAH!!

BUT I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T MATTER I CANNOT BE SAVED NOR CAN YOUR FATHER

N-NO! I DO NOT B-BELIEVE YOU!

STOP.

THERE IS A WAY

YOU FEAR FOR YOUR FATHER'S PLIGHT WITHIN THESE WALLS

THINK HOW MUCH EASIER IT WOULD BE IF HE HAD A WARRIOR LIKE YOU.

FIGHTING *BESIDE* HIM.

ONE THAT IS SO *SIMPLE*, BUT HAS NOT OCCURRED TO YOU

BUT I HAVE THE FEELING THAT NOW.

I-LIEREN.

AWAKEN.

YOU'LL BE *OPEN* TO THE IDEA.

DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME, COW!

YOU ARE TOO WEAK TO BREAK MY SPELL!

THEN

I HAVE NO CHOICE

WELCOME...

...TO KARAZHAN!!

GLEAM

NO!!

CLANG

FORGIVE ME, I KNOW NOT WHAT I DO!

IT IS *MEDIVH'S* DOING! IT IS *ALL* MEDIVH'S DOING!!

AND YOU *LET* IT HAPPEN, ARAN.

DO NOT MAKE ME *REGRET* MY MERCY UPON YOU.

FATHER ?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR MOTHE

IS IT *TRUE?!*

ARE YOU *TRAPPED HERE?!*

YES

THEN I SHALL STAY HERE WITH YOU AND--

STILL WE COULD NOT BE *TOGETHER*

WHY NOT?!

TIME IN THIS PLACE IS NOT BOUND FOR *THE DEAD* TRAPPED WITHIN ITS WALLS. THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE TAKING US WITH THEM AT RANDOM

EVEN NOW I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME BEFORE THE TOWER MOVES ME TO ANOTHER PLACE AND TIME WITHIN THESE WALLS. AS IT DOES NOW WITH ARAN

WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY SO I CAN GUIDE YOU OUT OF THE TOWER BEFORE MY TIME WITH YOU ENDS

HELP YOUR SISTER TO HER FEET

NOW, HOW DID YOU GET TO KARAZHAN?

LOANIA CAST A TELEPORTATION SPELL

I SEE HOPEFULLY WE CAN WAKE HER

THIS WAY! WE MUST *GO UP!*

FWAAM

KRAK

GOOD! NOW GET YOUR SISTER AS FAR FROM THE TOWER AS POSSIBLE!

JUST LET HER GET SOME FRESH AIR

THE EVIL WITHIN THE TOWER WILL BE COMING FOR YOU.

I'LL HOLD THEM OFF AS LONG AS I C—

FATHER?

I'M SORRY I CAN'T SAVE YOU.

I'M S-SORRY I COULDN'T SAVE MOTHER...

SHE

AND MY HAND PASSED THROUGH HER VERY FACE

I KNOW KARAZHAN REVEALED YOUR MOTHER'S FATE TO ME IN A VISION LONG AGO.

JUST AS IT NOW PASSES THROUGH YOURS

LIEREN SOME THINGS *CANNOT BE UNDONE.*

I AM NO SPIRIT. I HAVE *YET* TO BE AT THE *MERCY* OF *KARAZHAN!*

THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* I CAN DO TO HELP YOU!

MY FATE WAS DECIDED A LONG TIME AGO. AND I'VE ACCEPTED IT AS MUST *YOU.*

SOMETIMES THE *GREATEST WISDOM* IS KNOWING WHEN THE BATTLE IS LOST. AND THE *GREATEST STRENGTH* IS BEING ABLE TO MOVE ON.

MAKE YOUR [illegible] LIVE HER MY LOVE

[illegible]

HOW DID YOU ?

FATHER! IT HAS BEEN.

AN HONOR.

I AM GLAD YOU INSISTED WE COME

CAN YOU USE MINE?

Y YES BUT

YOU AREN'T TRAINED

THE STRAIN C COULD KILL YOU.

DO IT)

IT IS HIGH TIME I PUT *MYSELF* AT RISK INSTEAD OF *YOU.*

FWAAAM

EVEN OUTSIDE ITS WALLS KARAZHAN'S PULL IS STRONG!

BUT I KNOW SISTER THAT IF ANYONE HAS THE STRENGTH TO BEAT THIS TOWER

BTAM

AAK

YOU MUST CAST ANOTHER TELEPORTATION SPELL!

I I HAVENT THE STRENGTH!

REQUIEM

IT IS *YOU!!*

!!

GOOD, YOU'RE IN BED

WHERE IS LIEREN?

LIEREN?

I UH

I'M WASHING UP, KARDAN!

SHOULD YOU NOT BE IN BED AS WELL?

HA! IT IS YOUR *SISTER* WHO LOOKS LIKE SHE NEEDS TO *REST*, NOT I!

YOU MUST ALSO THICKEN YOUR HIDE, YOUNG WARRIOR.

YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE JUST SEEN A *GHOST*.. /

HOW LONG WAS I UNCONSCIOUS?

NOT LONG.

YOU ARE A GOOD MAGE SISTER. PERHAPS ALMOST MATCHING MY SKILLS AS A *WARRIOR*.

ALMOST.

HAS YOUR STRENGTH NOW RETURNED?

COMPLETELY THANKS TO YOUR SACRIFICE

YOUR HAIR IT'S *WHITE* OH LIEREN I'M SO SORRY FOR MANY REASONS

I CANNOT WIN EVERY BATTLE

I KNOW THAT NOW

AND IF IN MY STUBBORNESS I FORGET THAT ALL I NEED DO IS LOOK IN A *MIRROR* TO REMEMBER

AT LEAST WHILE OUR FATHER'S SPIRIT IS TRAPPED IT REMAINS *UNBROKEN*

AS DOES OURS, SISTER

AS DOES *OURS*.

END

WARCRAFT

LEGENDS

VOLUME FIVE

THE FIRST GUARDIAN

WRITTEN BY LOUISE SIMONSON

PENCILS BY SEUNG-HUI KYE
INKS BY SEUNG-HUI KYE, ARIELLA
& FERNANDO MELEK

DALARAN: A BRIEF HISTORY

Almost 3,000 years ago, a group of human magi, feeling fettered by strict laws governing magic in Strom, journeyed north to Lordaeron. On the southern shore of Lordamere Lake, these magi founded the city-state of Dalaran, where they hoped to practice their craft with less restraint

The ruling archmagi, called Magocrats, eagerly devoted themselves to the arcane. They housed their growing libraries and research laboratories in the Violet Citadel, a towering spire raised by magic in the heart of the city.

Magi from all over Azeroth came to Dalaran to study at its schools, do research in its vast libraries and practice their craft freely in the company of their peers. Soon non-magical beings moved to Dalaran to provide necessary services for the residents of the thriving magocracy

The citizens of Dalaran thought that their shining city was impregnable and that it would forever [illegible]

But, in time, the constant and ungoverned use of magic began to tear the fabric of reality around the city. These tears sent bright beacons out into the Twisting Nether and drew the attention of the banished denizens of the Burning Legion. Through these rents, demons began to slip back into Azeroth, bringing with them conflict and cruelty, misery and corruption

Consulting their elves, the Magocrats learned that as long as they used magic, they would need to protect the citizenry from the Legion's agents. Yet the knowledge could not be allowed to cause this threat lest the people riot in fear. Thus, the elves and Magocrats formed a secret order known as the Council of Tirisfal

The order began to experiment, trying to discover the most effective way to deal with the demon incursions

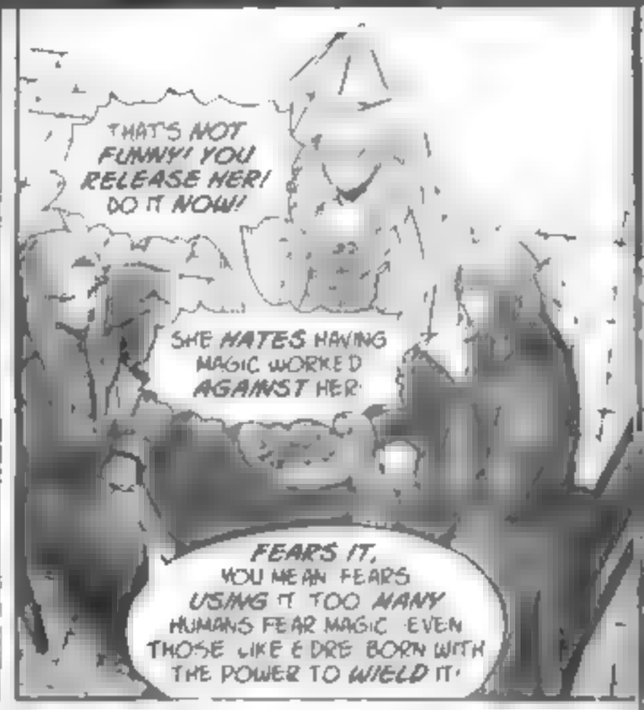
One group held that the magi should work together as a team of equals. Another group believed that their magic should be funneled through a single head, though how that should be managed was another challenge

In time, the solution was found by... THE FIRST GUARDIAN

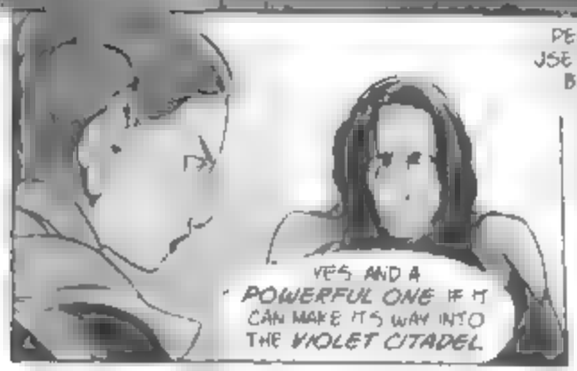
DALREAN, TWENTY SIX HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST WAR BETWEEN ORCS AND HUMANS...
MUGA TELLS ME SOME MALIGN THING HAS BEEN CREEPING AROUND OUR VAULTS
IT'S DESTROYED SEVERAL ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS. AND LEFT ITS STENCH ON THE CASKET THAT HOLDS THE AMULET OF WATERS.
A DEMON?

HALL! WHAT ARE YOU--?

RELAX, ALODI, RELAX! EIDRE WAS COMPLAINING OF THE HEAT!
I BUT SEEK TO COOL HER SHE CAN EASILY FREE HERSELF


THAT'S NOT FUNNY! YOU RELEASE HER! DO IT NOW!
SHE HATES HAVING MAGIC WORKED AGAINST HER
FEARS IT, YOU MEAN FEARS USING IT TOO MANY HUMANS FEAR MAGIC EVEN THOSE LIKE EIDRE BORN WITH THE POWER TO WIELD IT.

DO THEY, PRINCE HALLORATH?! I'M HALF-HUMAN. OR HAD YOU--IN ALL YOUR SPOILED ELVEN ROYALNESS-- FORGOTTEN?!


YES AND A POWERFUL ONE IF IT CAN MAKE ITS WAY INTO THE VIOLET CITADEL.

PERHAPS WE CAN USE THE AMULET TO BAIT A TRAP...
ANOTHER TANKARD?

ONLY IF WE GO INSIDE I'M GETTING HOT!
!

ARE YOU?

CARE TO TEST THAT THEORY AGAINST ME. ?!
FRZZZAK

P!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! KALL MODI! YOU'RE FRIENDS! YOU CAN'T—

EIDRE! GET BACK!!

KRAK!

DUELS TO THE DEATH! PARANOIA! PLAGUE! STINGING INSECTS AND RAVENING RODENTS! NOT SEPARATE INCIDENTS BUT A SYMPTOM OF A LARGER MALAISE...!

INDUS IS RIGHT! A POWERFUL DEMON IS POURING ITS POISON INTO DALARAN!

WHAT THE—?!

DAYS LATER, IN A VAULT BELOW THE CHAPEL

DESTROYED DURING THE WAR OF THE ANCIENTS BY MALFURION STORMRAGE HIMSELF!

APPARENTLY NOT QUITE DESTROYED, HUGA.

YOU WERE RIGHT, HERVL! THE DEMON LEAPT AT THE CHANCE TO STEAL AND CORRUPT THE AMULET OF WATERS!

IT'S THE DREADLORD KATHRA'NATIR— DESCRIBED IN THE COMPENDIUM OF TERRORS!

BUT HE HAS FALLEN TO OUR LURE! WE STILL HAVE THE JEWEL AND NOW WE HAVE HIM! AND DESTROYED HE WILL BE!

BRZZAK

STOP IT BOTH OF YOU!!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST OF FRIENDS! THIS IS MADNESS!!

PZZLAXXT

YEARRGHH!!

EH?

!!

ENOUGH DISCUSSION!!

COUNCIL OF TIRISFAL--LEND ME YOUR POWER!!

LET ME BE YOUR SPEARHEAD THAT I MIGHT DESTROY OUR GREAT ENEMY KATHRA'NATIR!!

FOOLS! YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO SHOW MYSELF"

ZZT

THOOM

YOU THINK ME TRAPPED IN YOUR WARDED CIRCLE? BUT YOU WILL LEARN...

NO!!

THAT KATHRA'NATIR IS NOT SO EASILY DESTROYED!!

FOOOM

A DEMON!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!

I THOUGHT THEY'D ALL BEEN DESTROYED OR BANISHED!

LET FIRE ENCLOSE AND DEVOUR HIM!!

GHRRRH!!

FWOOSH!!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!

DOING ?

THEY'RE POURING ENERGY INTO THE MAGE YOU CALLED AERTIN! HE'S FIRING IT INTO THE DEMON!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

YOU CAN'T SEE IT?!

GET DOWN!!

HOLY LIGHT, AID ME! I WANT TO GO HOME . I NEVER WANTED TO COME HERE

MY PARENTS MADE ME I DIDN'T WANT TO COME AND NOW I'M GOING TO DIE!!

YOU WON'T ESCAPE US SO EASILY, DEMON!

THERE'S MERYL AND MUSA FROM THE LIBRARY! THIS IS GOING TO ENRAGE HER! THE GNOME IS THE INVENTOR, INDUS.. !

ETHYLAR AND ROHAR ARE MAGI AT MY FATHER'S COURT AERTIN USED TO BE ONE I DON'T KNOW THE OTHER HUMAN!

THE ENERGY MISSILES, YES, BUT NOT--

SHHHRRRRAKK

AAK!!

MERYL WAS DISTRACTED! HE WAS GIVING HIS ALL AND HAD NO POWER LEFT TO FOCUS ELSEWHERE OR DEFEND HIMSELF!

AND THE LOSS OF HIS MAGIC WEAKENS THE OTHERS!
UNH!!
SWAG
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!!
GASP! HE'S FREE!

I SEE THERE ARE OTHERS HERE WHO WISH TO DIE.
I'LL.. I'LL DISTRACT HIM, WALL! JUST GET EIDRE OUT OF HERE!
BUT -
DO IT!!
I JUST WISH I'D PAID MORE ATTENTION DURING LECTURES. I DIDN'T THINK--!!
NO ONE ELSE WILL DIE THIS DAY!!
HA HA HA! SO VALIANT! SO DETERMINED! SO DOOMED!
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BREAK [redacted] DESTROY YOU, HMM?
ONE LITTLE BLAST? TWO...?
N-NO
KRAK

AERTIN'S DOING FOR ME WHAT THE OTHERS DID FOR HIM— FEEDING WHAT POWER HE HAS LEFT TO STRENGTHEN MY SHIELD!

I HAVE IT NOW!!

IF ONLY I COULD WIELD IT AS A WEAPON AS AERTIN DID. BUT I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO DO EVEN THIS!!

GET MASTER AERTIN OUT OF HERE!!

AND MERYL!! AND—

WHOM ARE YOU ORDERING ABOUT, BOY?! EVERYONE ELSE HAS RUN AWAY!!

SOON ENOUGH, THERE'LL BE NO ONE ALIVE TO HEAR YOU SCREAM— EXCEPT FOR ME!!

KA-BOOM

MASTER MERYL! WH-WHAT HAPPENED?! I I THOUGHT YOU WERE (DEAD?)

AH YOU'RE AWAKE.

I'VE BEEN DEAD WELL UNDEAD FOR OVER A CENTURY

SORRY. WASN'T THINKING. HEAD'S STILL FUZZY!

I TRIED TO SHIELD EVERYONE MASTER AER HELPED ME USING THE STRANGE MAGIC THAT YOU SHARED.

I COULD SEE IT BUT HALL COULDN'T I THINK I FELT AERTIN DIE

YOU SAVED THE REST WHEN THE DEMON TOUCHED YOUR SHIELD THE FEEDBACK--

IT BLEW THE DEMON BACK! I REMEMBER! BUT WHY--? AND IT KNOCKED ME OUT AND THE OTHERS. I FELT THAT TOO

WAIT THE DEMON! IS IT GONE?!

NOT PERMANENTLY.

I I DIDN'T PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO THE TEACHINGS ABOUT DEMONS. I HAD THOUGHT THEM ALL DESTROYED OR BANISHED!

BUT I WAS WRONG! IT WAS TERRIBLE.

YET YOU STOOD YOUR GROUND. LISTEN I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU WORK IN THE CITADEL--

ALODI! YOU'RE AWAKE! I

OH

MASTER MERYL

I SEE YOU HAVE ANOTHER VISITOR WE'LL SPEAK OF THIS AGAIN, SOON. I TRUST YOU BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT TODAY'S BATTLE IS TO BE A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET.

WE UNDERSTAND

I WILL SPEAK TO HALLORATH ALSO AND PERHAPS IN THE FUTURE YOU'LL ATTEND YOUR STUDIES MORE CLOSELY?

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?!

HE'S DISGUSTING! ALMOST AS HORRIBLE, IN HIS OWN WAY, AS THE DEMON!

MERYL CAN'T HELP BEING UNDEAD!

CAN'T HELP IT?! ALODI. HE CHOSE IT!

BUT YOU KNOW HIS STORY..

HE WAS KILLED DURING THE TROLL WARS, BUT COULDN'T JET HIMSELF REMAIN DEAD TOO MANY LIVES DEPENDED ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS MISSION

AND SO. THROUGH HIS MAGIC, HE BECAME UNDEAD HE'S A GREAT HERO. !

HE'S A WALKING CORPSE! IF HE'S SO GREAT--IF THEY'RE ALL SO GREAT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO STOP THAT THING?

BUT EVERYONE THERE WAS HELPING ADDING POWER--

NO! YOU THREW UP THAT SHIELD! YOU SAVED EVERYONE I SAW!

WAIT YOU COULDN'T SEE IT EITHER?

BUT IT WASN'T ME ALONE. I WAS TIED TO THEM SO THAT I CAN'T QUITE TELL WHERE THEIR ACTIONS STOPPED AND MINE BEGAN.

VENOM-WEB VALE IN TIRISFAL GLADES

DON'T WASTE THEM, ETHYLIN!

MY LATE *PREDECESSOR* MAY HAVE *CREATED* THOSE SPIDERS IN A MAD BID TO *SECURE* OUR MEETING PLACE

BUT I SEE NO REASON WHY *I* SHOULD *ENDURE* THEIR PRESENCE!

ENOUGH! THE *DEMON* HAS BEEN DRIVEN FROM DALARAN. WE HAVE *WEAKENED* HIM!

AS *HE* HAS WEAKENED *US*. WE HAVE LOST *AERTIN BRISNTWAND*. OUR *SPEARHEAD*. THE *BEST* OF *US!*

WE HAVE ALSO LOST THE *AMULET OF WATERS*. WITH IT KATHRA'NATIR COULD *CORRUPT* LORDAMERE LAKE

WE NEED TO CHOOSE ANOTHER MEMBER FOR OUR *COUNCIL OF TIRISFAL* AND WE NEED TO SELECT A NEW *SPEARHEAD!*

IS THAT TRULY *NECESSARY?*

WHEN WE ARE *LINKED*, WHATEVER AFFECTS *ONE* OF US, AFFECTS US *ALL*. WHEN *MERYL* FELL OUR POWER *LESSENED*.

AND, WHEN THE DEMON *TOUCHED* THE SHIELD THE *BACKLASH* NEARLY *DESTROYED US*.

IT MIGHT HAVE *KILLED* US, HAD *AERTIN* NOT DELIBERATELY ABSORBED MOST OF THE *IMPACT*.

HE USED THE LAST OF HIS ENERGY *NOT* TO *ATTACK*—BUT TO *PROTECT*. / HE *WASN'T* A *FIGHTER!*

WHICH WAS IN PART, *WHY* WE CHOSE HIM. HE WAS THAT *RAREST* OF BEINGS, WHO COULD WIELD A BRAIDED STREAM OF OUR *POWER*

YET WOULD *NEVER* TURN THAT POWER *AGAINST* US

IT *IS* A *RARE TALENT*, ON THAT WE AGREE. NONE OF *US* HAVE IT. WE WILL *SEARCH*, OF COURSE. BUT

WHY EVEN *CHOOSE* A SPEARHEAD? LET US CONTINUE AS SEPARATE *INDIVIDUALS*.

NO. WE *NEED* A *SPEARHEAD*. . SOMEONE TO ACT AS A *LENS* TO *FOCUS* OUR *COMBINED POWER*

ONLY *THEN* WILL WE HAVE A *WEAPON* TO DESTROY A POWERFUL DREADLORD LIKE *KATHRA'NATIR!*

WE'VE HAD *SEVERAL* SPEARHEADS-- AND *ALL* HAVE *DIED*. THE JOB HAS *NO FUTURE!* *WHO* WOULD--

BUT WAIT--WE HAVE ALREADY *FOUND* OUR SPEARHEAD! YOU *SAW* WHAT THE YOUNG MAGE *ALODI* DID YOU *FELT* HIS *THOUGHTS*, HIS *APTITUDE* AND HIS *POWER*

BY *INSTINCT*, HE USED OUR COMBINED ENERGY TO *STRENGTHEN* HIS SHIELD AND *PROTECT* US ALL!

YET, HE HAS A *WARRIOR'S HEART* AND *LONGED* TO WIELD THE POWER AS A *WEAPON*.

WITH THAT WISH, HE *FORGED* A SHIELD SO *POWERFUL* THAT *CONTACT* WITH IT DROVE KATHRA'NATIR FROM DALARAN!

IMAGINE WHAT HE COULD DO IF GIVEN A FULL CEREMONIAL *INVESTMENT!*

I CAN'T WAIT TO RETURN HOME AND TAKE YOU WITH ME *AWAY* FROM HERE *FOREVER!*

I'LL BRING LITTLE MATERIAL TO OUR MARRIAGE

I'LL BRING *MAGIC*. MY PARENTS VALUE *THAT* GREATLY I'M THEIR *HEIR*...

AND TOGETHER, THEY'RE SURE WE CAN RESTORE MY FAMILY'S *PRESTIGE*.

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

IT'S WHY MY PARENTS *SENT* ME HERE.

THEY *KNOW* MY TALENT IS *MINOR*, BUT THEY WANTED ME TO MAKE A *GOOD MATCH*.

I'D HOPED FOR SPELLS TO BRING *RAIN* AND HELP *CROPS* GROW AND AND BILLOW *SAILS*.

INSTEAD I GOT *FIRE* AND *ICE!* *USELESS*.

THAT BOY? HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS *DOING!* *NO EXPERIENCE* AT ALL.

A *HALF-ELF* *ORPHAN* OF *NO* *BREEDING!* A *NOBODY!*

PRODIGIOUSLY *TALENTED*, OF COURSE, AS THOSE RARE *HYBRIDS* SOMETIMES ARE. BUT *LAZY!* HE'S NEVER REALIZED HIS *POTENTIAL*.

I'VE OFFERED ALODI A *POSITION* RESEARCHING SPELLS. I SUSPECT WE'LL FIND THAT, UNTIL NOW, HE SIMPLY HASN'T BEEN GIVEN A *REASON* TO *EXCEL*.

FRRRGGGGH

EXCEPT IN *BATTLE!*

EIDRE! GET DOWN!!

AHHHHHH!!

MADERE LAKE

THIS CAMPAIGN TO R'D THE LAKE OF KATHRA'NATIR'S TAINT WILL BE A *FAIR TEST.*

THE COUNCIL MAY WELL SUCCEED *WITHOUT* A SPEARHEAD

WE'RE *READY,* INDUS !

SURVIVE

BOOM

THERE'S *NEVER* BEEN ANYTHING IN THE LAKE LIKE *THAT* BEFORE! WHAT WHAT *WAS* IT?!

I I. I *DON'T KNOW.* BUT I *SUSPECT* IT WAS A CONJURING OF *KATHRA'NATIR.* !

MASTER MERYL HAS OFFERED ME A RESEARCH POSITION IN THE CITADEL EIDRE I'M GOING TO *ACCEPT.* I *CAN'T* LEAVE DALARAN NOT *YET.*

THERE'S *ANOTHER UNIVERSE* BEYOND THIS ONE. POSSIBILITIES I DIDN'T *KNOW EXISTED.* SO MUCH MORE I NEED TO *KNOW.* AND DO.

HA! YOU SEE HOW *EASILY* WE DESTROY THESE MONSTERS !

TAKE HEED THEY ARE THE DEMON'S *PETS,* IRAR--NOT THE DEMON *HIMSELF.* KATHRA'NATIR HAS *LEFT* DALARAN TO SPREAD HIS MISERY ACROSS *ARATHOR*

LATER.

AND IF WE TAKE THE *TELEPORTATION SPELL* AND *TWIST* IT... JUST A BIT.. RIGHT *HERE*...

I THINK *ONE* MAGE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEND *POWER* TO *ANOTHER*

MUCH LIKE THE WAY MASTER AERTIN AUGMENTED MY *SHIELD*— ONLY FROM A GREATER *DISTANCE* LIKE THIS, SEE? ONLY

I THINK HE HAS A LARGER PURPOSE PERHAPS WE CAN USE THIS *SPELL* TO *FIGHT* HIM!

OH GOOD, YOU'RE READY

READY ?

WHOA!!

IT'S KAPHRA'S *BIRTHDAY!* WE TALKED ABOUT IT *REMEMBER?*

DID WE? OH WELL YOU TWO GO ON *WITHOUT* ME!

I'LL *MEET* YOU THERE... IN A BIT THERE'S SOMETHING *VITAL*

INTERESTING. MY PROTECTIVE *WARDS* CUT IN AUTOMATICALLY I DON'T HAVE THE *APTITUDE* TO HANDLE THAT GREAT AN INFUSION OF POWER

BUT *YOU DO!* WHAT IF *I* WERE TO ACT AS *SENDER* ?

LET'S *TEST* IT! I'LL TELEPORT TO THE *TOP* OF THE *TOWER* AND WE'LL *TRY* IT IF *THAT* WORKS.

HERVI. I'VE BEEN THINKING *HARD* ABOUT THIS.

I BELIEVE THAT KATHRA'NATH HAS A *LARGER* PLAN BEYOND SIMPLY BRINGING *MISERY.*

PESTILENCE FAMINE DROUGHT AND FEAR ARE A LETHAL COMBINATION. AND *SCARCITY OF RESOURCES* CAN SO EASILY LEAD TO *WAR*

WAIT! IF WE ALTER THE SPELL *HERE* ALSO WE MIGHT INCREASE ITS *DURATION* AND—

SO I TAKE IT OUR TIME TOGETHER IS *UNIMPORTANT?!*

COME, NALL IT'S CLEAR WE *BORE* HIM!

EIDRE?

I'M *LOSING* HER AREN'T I? I *LOVE* HER BUT THIS WORK IS *ESSENTIAL*

YOUR NEEDS HAVE *CHANGED,* WHILE HERS HAVE *NOT.* IT'S BEST YOU DISCOVER THIS *BEFORE* YOU'RE WED

IT ISN'T *THAT.* I JUST NEED TO FIND A WAY TO SPEND MORE *TIME* WITH HER SLEEP *LESS,* PERHAPS.

Weeks later...

KATHRA'NATIR has been spotted on the edge of SILVERPINE FOREST!

He's brought a blight of LOCUSTS to destroy the trees and ravage the cropland!

LET'S GET TO IT! I'M ITCHING TO DESTROY THAT MONSTER!!

MAGI! YOU'VE GROWN WEAKER...WHILE I HAVE GROWN IN POWER. A DEMONSTRATION?

FWOOM

YOU HAVE BECOME LIKE GNATS—EASILY SWATTED!

BZZ

AIIIEEEEEE!!

BZZZZZZZ

EARTHQUAKE

NOW!!

AH. THE MAGI FROM DALARAN!

EASILY DESTROYED!

AAK!!

FWOOSH

WELL THAT DIDN'T WORK!

EXCEPT AS A DEMONSTRATION OF HOW NOT TO PROCEED

WAIT ETHYLAR? SHE ISN'T AMONG US!

ALODI WAKE UP!

WHA ?

YOU SAY YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME--BUT YOU FALL ASLEEP WHILE I'M TALKING?!

SORRY UP LATE WORKIN--

ALODI WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

!

MASTER MERYL, YOU HAVE ALODI WITH YOU DAY AND NIGHT! THIS IS OUR TIME!

WAIT, E DRE.

MERYL, IT'S IMPORTANT?

MORE IMPORTANT THAN I AM, THAT MUCH IS CLEAR!

NO

SHE LOATHED INSECTS. THE LARGER THE BUG, THE GREATER HER FEAR

I FELT HER FREEZE UP, BUT I HOPED--

COME! WE LEAVE AT ONCE, FOR

THE DEMON'S WARD WAS IMPENETRABLE TO OUR INDIVIDUAL SPELLS!

WE NEED A CHAMPION TO USE OUR COMBINED POWER LIKE A SWORD--TO SLICE THROUGH THAT MASSIVE SHIELD AND DESTROY HIS DARK HEART.

ALL RIGHT. ASK YOUNG ALODI, THEN.

HE'S BEEN WORKING LATE INTO THE NIGHT-- AND TO GOOD EFFECT. YES. I THINK PERHAPS HE'LL DO!

". TIRISFAL GLADES"

I I. I KNOW YOU ALL BUT ?

WE ARE THE COUNCIL OF TIRISFAL, A SECRET SOCIETY OF MAGI WHO STAND AGAINST THE DEMONS OF THE BURNING LEGION WHEREVER THEY APPEAR

WE ASK THAT YOU BECOME OUR SPEARHEAD, TO FUNCTION AS A CONDUIT FOR OUR COMBINED POWER

THAT'S WHAT MASTER AERTIN WAS DOING? WHAT I COULD SEE THAT OTHERS COULD NOT?

THE ABILITY TO *PERCEIVE* THAT PARTICULAR *ENERGY TORRENT* IS RARE *RARER* STILL IS THE MAGE WHO CAN *CONTROL* IT

NONE OF US HAS THAT ABILITY

IN THE PAST SOME WHO TRIED BECAME *DISTORTED*.. OR WENT *MAD*. . OR *DIED*.

BUT WE KNOW THAT *YOU* HAVE THE *APTITUDE* WE *FELT* YOU WIELD THE SHIELD

WE TOUCHED YOUR *MIND*. AS YOU TOUCHED *OURS*. YOUR NEED TO *PROTECT* THE *INNOCENT* WAS AS STRONG AS YOUR DRIVE TO *DESTROY EVIL*

YOU WILL *GAIN* FROM THE UNION, FOR, WHEN OUR POWERS *MELD*, YOU WILL SHARE OUR *KNOWLEDGE!*

BUT THE POSITION IS *PERILOUS*. . YOU WILL BE AT GREAT *PERSONAL RISK!*

I SWEAR TO YOU I WILL KEEP YOUR *SECRET*. BUT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT COMMITMENT I NEED TO BE *SURE*.

LATER

KATHRANATIR HAS DISAPPEARED ONLY WHEN HE IS FOUND AGAIN WILL A SPEARHEAD BE NEEDED I HAVE TIME TO THINK TO DECIDE

BLOOD!

MY F-FATHER IS *DEAD*! MY *MOTHER* IS *ILL*! OUR LAND IS BESET BY SWARMING *INSECTS* AND *VERMIN*! THE WELLS HAVE RUN *DRY*!!

FISHERMEN SAW A *DEMON* STALKS THE SHORE OF *BRIGHTWATER LAKE*!!

THE LAND. IT'S PEOPLE ARE *MINE* NOW! I NEED TO *GO HOME!*

COME *WITH* ME! *RULE* BESIDE ME! WITH ALL OUR *TRAINING*, THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* WE CAN DO!

A *DEMON*. ?

AS *SPEARHEAD*, I'D HAVE THE POWER TO *BANISH* HIM. BUT THAT CHOICE WOULD *BIND* ME TO *DALARAN*..

AND I WOULD LOSE *EIDRE*— AND MY PLACE BY HER *SIDE*. I *CAN'T* LOSE HER! AND YET

I CAN'T *GO* WITH YOU, E'DRE. MY DUTY LIES *HERE*.

WITH DALARAN?! THEN IT'S OVER *BETWEEN* US! IT *HAS* TO BE!

WHAT GOOD IS *DALARAN* TO *ME* IF IT CAN'T HELP ME *SAVE* MY *PEOPLE*?!

WHAT GOOD INDEED

VENOMWEB VALE

KATHRA'NATIR IS LURKING NEAR BRIGHTWATER LAKE. WE MUST HURRY!

YOU'LL JOIN US, THEN?

ON SEVERAL CONDITIONS. I'VE BEEN REVIEWING THE BATTLE OVER AND OVER. I THINK I KNOW WHY WE FAILED BEFORE. AND WHAT WE HAVE TO DO NOW TO SUCCEED.

FIRST WE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE TRANSFER CEREMONY. THROUGH IT YOU WILL GRANT ME ACCESS TO YOUR ENTIRE FUND OF POWER FOR THE DURATION OF THE UPCOMING BATTLE.

ALL? BUT HOW WILL WE PROTECT OURSELVES?!

YOU WON'T NEED TO. WHILE I FACE THE DEMON AT THE LAKE, YOU WILL REMAIN HERE, IN VENOMWEB VALE. MERYL AND I HAVE DEVISED A SPELL THAT WILL LINK US ACROSS GREAT DISTANCES.

ONCE THE DEMON IS BANISHED OR DESTROYED, I WILL RETURN THE POWER YOU HAVE LENT ME. UNTIL THE NEXT ENCOUNTER.

TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE WE WILL ALTER MY TITLE.

I WILL NOT BE SPEARHEAD BUT GUARDIAN— OF YOUR POWER, SAFETY AND TRUST. AND OF THE DEFENSE OF AZEROTH!

WE AGREE. LET US BEGIN!

ORUM NO'BENDIR!*
(*POWER WE HAVE)

ORUM NO'MALLAH!*
(*POWER WE SHARE)

VOHL UM ARANAR...*
(*OUT OF MANY)

...AN'DELAHNA!!*
(* INTO ONE)

KATHRA'NATIR IS NEARBY. I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIM FEEDING OFF THE MISERY HE'S

AND WITH YOUR SPELL OF BRIGHT VISION, INDUS, I HOPE TO SPOT HIS AURA OF DARK ENERGY.

THERE'S EIDRE'S KEEP! SHE'S THERE!

THERE'S A KIND OF PATTERN.

AND AT ITS CENTER...

RUMBLE

ALODI...!

IT'S ALODI! I KNEW HE'D COME!

ALODI...!!

EIDRE! FORGIVE ME.

THE DESTRUCTION SEEMS TO SPREAD OUT FROM THAT ISLAND.

BY THE LIGHT! IT ISN'T ME HE'S COME FOR. BUT THE DEMON!

AH.. THE YOUNG MAGE WITH THE POWERFUL SHIELD. YOU DARE TO FACE ME ALONE?

YOU HAVE A LARGER PLAN, DEMON, BEYOND MERE MISERY! YOU HOPE THAT, DRIVEN BY CIRCUMSTANCE, HUMAN, ELF AND GNOME WILL FALL UPON EACH OTHER!

WAR! THAT MOST ENTERTAINING OF MORTAL ACTIVITIES! WAR WILL COME.. AND MANY DEATHS WILL FOLLOW. ONCE I HAVE DEALT WITH YOU!

CLEVER OF YOU TO HAVE FIGURED IT OUT!

YOUR KIND TRIED TO TRAP ME ONCE BEFORE IN A RING OF FIRE...AND FAILED!

I'VE HEARD HUMANS SAY THAT MADNESS IS DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AND EXPECTING A DIFFERENT RESULT.

TELL ME MAGE HAVE YOU GONE MAD?

HA HA HA! I'M TREMBLING, MAGE.

LET ME SHOW YOU WHO IS TRAPPED WITH WHOM!

KRAKOOM

BY THE LIGHT HE IS POWERFUL!! HELP ME SHARE WITH ME YOUR COURAGE THAT I MIGHT FACE DOWN THIS MONSTER OR ACCEPT MY OWN DEATH BRAVELY!

PSSSSH

MUSA—THANK YOU FOR THIS SPELL! IRAR—LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH, THAT I MAY HOLD IT HARD AND FAST!!

THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT MONSTER! THIS TIME YOU WON'T ESCAPE!

THIS TIME YOU'RE TRAPPED INSIDE THIS WARD WITH ME!!

NO! THE COUNCIL IS DEPENDING ON ME! THEY HAVE GIVEN ME THEIR POWER—

--AND I WILL NOT FAIL THEM!!

FEEL IT, DEMON!!!

FEEL OUR INEXORABLE FURY!!!
FRZZZZAAK
THIS TIME IT IS YOU WHO WILL BURN!!!
NOW! POUR YOUR POWER THROUGH ME-- EVERY SEARING SPELL THAT WE POSSESS. THAT I MAY TWIST THEM INTO AN EXPLOSIVE NEGATION!!
NOW LEARN THE COST OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE--
--TO THIS LAND...TO ITS PEOPLE...AND TO MY LIFE!!!
BECAUSE OF YOU, I HAVE BECOME A DEMON'S NIGHTMARE!!
RAAAAAARGH!!!
RIFT OPEN!!!
KATHRA'NATIR, HEAR ME! RETURN TO THE TWISTING NETHER FROM WHICH YOU SPRANG!!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!

YOU ARE BANISHED FROM AZEROTH--

--FOR ALL ETERNITY!!!

BOOM

THANK THE LIGHT ! THE DEMON IS GONE! AND ALODI'S ALIVE! BJT HOW-?

I UNDERSTAND NOW MY LOVE. YOURS IS A LARGER DESTINY BEYOND THE NEEDS OF MY SMALLHOLDING WHILE MY OWN DUTY LIES HERE

GOOD-BYE ALODI LIGHT BLESS YOU FARE YOU WELL!

ROHAR LEND ME YOUR WISDOM THAT I MAY DO WHAT IS RIGHT!

EIDRE GOOD-BYE

THE LAKE IS RESTORED. MY PEOPLE ARE SAVED.

FWOOSH!

EIDRE...?

MAMA?

ALODI HAS ANSWERED MY DOUBTS ABOUT THE WORTH OF DALARAN. AND GIVEN ME BACK ALL THAT I LOVE.

EXCEPT HIMSELF

KATHRANATIR IS BANISHED TO THE TWISTING NETHER HE WILL TROUBLE AZEROTH NO LONGER!

AND NOW I MUST RETURN YOUR POWER

AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT DEMON THREATENS AZEROTH. IS OUR MAGIC SO IRKSOME THAT YOU ARE EAGER TO BE RID OF IT?

I BOTH LOVE AND HATE WHAT I'VE BECOME WHAT THIS SHARED POWER MAKES ME

YOU ARE WHAT YOU WERE BORN TO BE--THE FIRST GUARDIAN OF TIRISFAL

I HOPE THAT IN THE END IT'S VALUE WILL BE GREATER THAN WHAT YOU HAVE SACRIFICED., LIKE EIDRE.

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, INDUS EIDRE HATED LIVING IN DALARAN SHE WAS COMFORTABLE WORKING ONLY THE MOST MUNDANE SPELLS AND SHE WAS TERRIFIED OF DEMONS.

THIS WAY IS WIRSEST SHE WOULD HAVE ENDED UP HATING OUR LIFE TOGETHER WE WOULD HAVE HATED EACH OTHER

EIDRE'S FIRST DUTY WAS ALWAYS TO HER PEOPLE. I ACCEPTED THAT BEFORE KATHRANATIR I WOULD HAVE JOINED HER.

BUT NOW, I HAVE A LARGER DUTY. . TO PROTECT ALL OF AZEROTH!

END

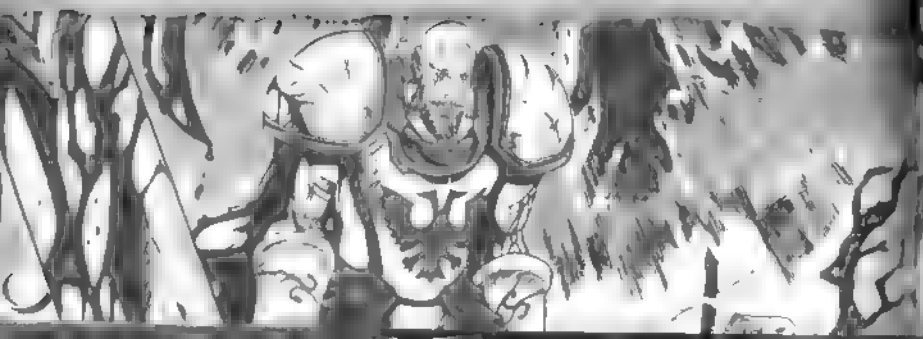
WARCRAFT

LEGENDS

VOLUME FIVE

A CLEANSING FIRE

WRITTEN BY EVELYN FREDERICKSEN



PREPARE YOURSELVES THE BELLS HAVE TOLLED!
SHELTER YOUR WEAK, YOUR YOUNG AND YOUR OLD!
EACH OF YOU SHALL PAY THE FINAL SUM.
CRY FOR MERCY; THE RECKONING HAS COME!

Although he rides at Hallows End, none know what horrors gave rise to the Headless Horseman.

GYAAAAAAH!!!

AIIIIEEEE!!

He speaks of righteousness, and yet it is rage that drives him.

...and pray to the Light for deliverance

A village in Lordaeron—Year AV.

Empowered by demonic magic, he burns the innocent and guilty alike

No measures have served to stop him.

Whip

The living can only try to escape the fires of his wrath.

In the days since Prince Arthas took the fleet to Northrend, the Silver Hand has been stretched thin fighting the spread of this terrible plague.

We protected another village last week, although the scourge attackers outnumbered us more than five to one.

It was a great victory for the Light, and I rode to my new posting immediately afterward. Why is it, then...

THAT I CANNOT SEEM TO MAKE HEADWAY IN THIS NEW BATTLEFIELD?
WHEN THE PRINCE ORDERED US TO PURGE STRATHOLME I NEVER HAD A MOMENT'S DOUBT THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE.
SUCH A DEED WOULD HAVE DEFILED OUR SACRED CHARGE PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF LORDAERON.
LORD UTHER WAS RIGHT THERE HAD TO BE ANOTHER WAY
STILL, FOR ALL MY PRAYERS, THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN ARE DYING.
WHY DO MY EFFORTS ONLY SLOW THIS DAMNABLE PLAGUE INSTEAD OF DRIVING IT OUT?
NOW OUR SUPPLIES GROW SHORT FOR WE CANNOT RELY ON GRAIN FROM ANDORHAL THE SICK AND THE HEALTHY SUFFER ALIKE
THEIR SUFFERING MUST HAVE SOME HIGHER PURPOSE, BUT I CANNOT SEE IT
O LIGHT GUIDE MY WAY HELP ME UNDERSTAND.

SIR THOMAS! FRESH FOOD HAS ARRIVED!
THREE WAGONS FULL! AND A MESSAGE FOR YOU!
LIGHT BE PRAISED
THIS IS BARON RIVENDARE'S WORK! HE HAS ALWAYS SHARED HIS WEALTH WITH THE PEOPLE
GO ON AND JOIN YOUR PARENTS IN THE FOOD LINE PHILLIP I CAN HEAR YOUR STOMACH GNAWING AT YOUR BACKBONE
WHAT ABOUT YOU? SHALL I BRING YOU SOMETHING?
NO A LITTLE HUNGER WILL CLEAR MY MIND
ARE YOU SURE?
LAST I SAW THE FEAST WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY. MMM, SMELL THAT?
FRESH BREAD!
OFF WITH YOU VILE TEMPTER!
PLEASE, HOLY LIGHT, FORGIVE YOUR SERVANT'S DOUBTS.
A FAITH UNTESTED IS A BLADE UNTEMPERED.
MAY THIS TRIAL STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE OF LORDAERON AND MAKE US WORTHIER AGENTS OF YOUR LOVING PURPOSE

But Thomas' hopes were shattered that night, his prayers, twisted into a mockery he found hard to fathom.

This trial would indeed transform the townspeople...

...into mindless slaves of the Lich King's iron will.

"THE *ENTIRE TOWN* WAS LOST?"

"YES, MY LORD."

"THAT TOWN ALONE HOUSED NEARLY A *THOUSAND SOULS.*"

"THE LIGHT CAME TO MY AID, AND I SENT THEM TO THEIR FINAL REST."

"THE BARON HAS *MUCH* TO ANSWER FOR."

"LET US BE THE JUDGE OF THAT. THE SCROLL, IF YOU PLEASE."

MARK MY WORDS THIS WILL NOT BE THE ONLY TOWN AFFECTED
THE EVIDENCE IS INCONTROVERTIBLE WRITTEN IN RIVENDARE'S VERY HAND HE HAS BETRAYED US
IF THAT IS SO, OUR LOSSES WILL BE HIGH, AND EVERY DEATH MEANS ANOTHER SOLDIER FOR THE SCOURGE.
THE FAULT WAS MINE, MY LORDS. I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PRECAU--
YOU COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN AND BE COMFORTED FOR THIS IS NOT THE END
HIGHLORD ALEXANDROS MOGRAINE HAS DEPARTED FOR IRONFORGE WHERE HE WILL GAIN A POWERFUL NEW WEAPON AGAINST THE SCOURGE
PROVIDED THAT DWARVEN CRAFTSMEN CAN BE TRUSTED
IN THE MEANTIME HOWEVER WE MUST DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION
AGREED THOMAS YOU'VE DONE WELL DISMISSED
BUT MILORD--
ARMY IS A WEAKENED ARMY GO HOME AND GET SOME REST
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO
LET ME SERVE YOU, LORD DATHROHAN
ISILLIEN? THINK, MY BROTHER. YOUR FAMILY STILL LIVES
NO ONE HERE BEGRUDGES YOU THE TIME IT TAKES TO WATCH OVER YOUR LOVED ONES.
SO MANY HAVE DIED WE MUST FIND JOY WHERE WE CAN.
REJOICE IN YOUR GOOD FORTUNE IT IS A LUXURY FEW AMONG US KNOW

FIVE DAYS LATER, AT THE HAMSON FARM JUST SOUTHWEST OF THE AGAMAND MILLS
BRING THE REST OF THE FOOD INSIDE, AND BE CAREFUL WITH THE PRESERVES. THEN IT'S OFF TO BED WITH YOU
AWW, MOM.
AND DON'T "AWW, MOM" ME
WHEN IS DADDY COMING HOME?
SOON SWEETHEART
I KEEP TELLING THEM, "SOON," MY LOVE
BUT I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER THEY--OR I--CAN BELIEVE
!!
STAY BACK
YOU'RE HURT!
IT'S NOT MY BLOOD THIS IS SCOURGE FILTH. I CAME ACROSS A POCKET OF UNDEAD ON THE WAY HERE

I PICKED UP DIRE NEWS ALONG THE JOURNEY

KING TERENAS IS DEAD *MURDERED.* CAPITAL CITY HAS *FALLEN.*

IT WAS *ARTHAS.* HE HE'S LEADING A SCOURGE ARMY THROUGH LORDAERON.

YOU SAID NORTHREND WAS A HARSH LAND

PERHAPS IT DROVE HIM MAD

NO.

REMEMBER THE MASSACRE HE AND HIS MEN CARRIED OUT IN STRATHOLME

IF THIS IS MADNESS, HE BORE THE *SEEDS OF IT* LONG *BEFORE* HE TOOK THE FLEET NORTH.

HE AND THE OTHER TRAITORS CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED, FREE TO COMMIT EVEN *DARKER CRIMES.*

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED AND WORSE YET, MANY HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO THE SCOURGE'S RANKS.

HE IS THE SAME MAN YOU ONCE CALLED BROTHER THERE MUST BE SOMEONE IN YOUR ORDER WHO CAN STILL GET THROUGH TO HIM.

HAVE YOU HEARD *NOTHING* I'VE SAID? CAPITAL CITY IS IN *RUINS!* *HE KILLED HIS OWN FATHER!!*

HIS *MOTIVES* NO LONGER *MATTER.* HIS CRIMES ARE *BEYOND FORGIVENESS.*

HE IS THE ENEMY—*HAS BEEN* THE ENEMY FOR SOME TIME NOW.

THE MORE FOOLS WE, THAT WE DID NOT SEE THAT *SOONER.*

FOUR DAYS LATER...

INFURIATED BY THE SPOILED PRINCE'S RECKLESSNESS THE MYSTERIOUS OLD WOMAN *CURSED* HIM AND HIS FAMILY

"THE KING HAS FALLEN INTO AN ENCHANTED SLEEP." SHE TOLD THE PRINCE "RETRIEVE THE SWORD FROM THE LAKE OR HE WILL *DIE* IN *THREE DAYS' TIME.*"

"YOU HAVE UNTIL SUNSET OF THE THIRD DAY."

THE SPOILED PRINCE WADED INTO THE LAKE BUT SOMETHING NIPPED AT HIS TOES, AND HE JUMPED OUT

HE SOON DISCOVERED THAT THE LAKE WAS NOW FULL OF *MAN-EATING FISH.*

THE MYSTERIOUS OLD WOMAN HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PRINCE HAD TO RETRIEVE THE SWORD ALONE AND UNAIDED

FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS HE TRIED EVERYTHING HE COULD THINK OF TO GET THE SWORD OUT OF THE LAKE

HE TRIED FISHING IT OUT BUT THE HOOK WAS TOO SMALL, AND THE SWORD WAS TOO HEAVY

HE WRAPPED PIECES OF MEAT IN CLOTH AND LEATHER AND THREW THEM INTO THE LAKE BUT THE HUNGRY FISH GNAWED THROUGH THE MATERIAL IN *SECONDS.*

THERE WERE SO MANY FISH, AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE FED THEM, THEY WERE ALWAYS *HUNGRY FOR MORE.*

THE LAKE WAS DEEP AND HEAVY ARMOR WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AS HE WOULD SINK AND DROWN.

FINALLY THE DESPERATE PRINCE KNEW HE HAD TO TAKE ACTION, OR HIS FATHER WOULD DIE

SO HE WRAPPED HIMSELF UP IN LEATHER AS BEST HE COULD AND HE DOVE INTO THE LAKE. THE FISH *ATTACKED* HIM *IMMEDIATELY.* YET HE KEPT SWIMMING AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD!

WOUNDED AND GROWING WEAKER HE GRABBED THE SWORD.
UP HE SWAM SWORD IN HAND FIGHTING FOR EVERY INCH AS THE FISH BIT AND TORE AT HIM!
AT LAST IN AGONY HE REACHED THE SURFACE AND THREW THE SWORD T SAFETY ON THE SHORE
JUST BEFORE THE FISH PULLED HIM UNDER FOR THE LAST TIME.
WH-WHAT DOES IT MEAN. ?
THE KING WAS SAVED. THE CURSE UNMADE. THE PRINCE'S BLOOD HIS SIN HAD PAID.
YOU ASKED WHY PRINCE ARTHAS D D THOSE BAD THINGS HE DID THEM BECAUSE THOSE WERE THE EASY CHOICES.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HARDER TO STAY AND FIGHT FOR LORDAERON GOOD PEOPLE HAVE DIED DOING JUST THAT.
BUT NO ONE SAID FOLLOWING THE LIGHT WOULD BE EASY IT'S HARD TO BE SELFLESS AND HONORABLE
IT'S HARD TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT
IF IT WEREN'T HARD, IT WOULDN'T BE HEROIC.

That night
I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL A SORCERESS THIS JAINA PROUDMOORE IS, OR HOW MANY NATIONS HER FATHER RULES!
SURELY ONE IS ENOUGH KUL TIRAS HAS A NAVY THAT WOULD MAKE ANY COUNTRY PROUD
SUCH THINGS DO NOT NECESSARILY MAKE HER A LEADER !
AND I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THIS LAND CALLED KALIMDOR. IT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THE WILD STORIES YOU TELL THE CHILDREN.
LORDAERON IS GROWING DANGEROUS. YOU AND THE CHILDREN WOULD BE SAFER UNDER LADY PROUDMOORE'S PROTECTION
THEN COME WITH US
YOU KNOW I CANNOT NO MATTER HOW MANY SHIPS KUL TIRAS SENDS THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH SPACE FOR EVERYONE.
THE SILVER HAND MUST PROTECT THOSE LEFT BEHIND
WITH THE MIGHTY SWORD ASHBRINGER HIGHLORD MOGRAINE HAS BEEN PARING DOWN THE SCOURGE'S NUMBERS
THE TIDE OF BATTLE IS TURNING HIGHLORD UTHER AND HIGHLORD MOGRAINE LEAD US WE WILL SURELY DRIVE THE UNDEAD FROM OUR LAND!
IN THE MEANTIME I NEED TO KNOW YOU ARE SAFE.
AND WE NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAFE
NO!
FWUMP
I KNOW YOU TOO WELL YOU WORRY ABOUT EVERYONE EXCEPT YOURSELF! IF WE LEFT FOR KALIMDOR WE WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN WOULD WE?
IF YOU STAY MY LOVE WE ALL STAY

The next morning
SO MANY?
ALL DEAD? ARE YOU SURE?
ABSOLUTELY SURE! FORGIVE ME, BUT I CANNOT TARRY. YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS!
THOMAS? PLEASE STOP
STOP FOR A MOMENT AND TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
I I NEED TO
SWEETHEART YOU'VE BEEN SHARPENING THAT SWORD FOR HOURS NOW.
COME BACK TO ME. YOU'RE SCARING THE CHILDREN. AND SCARING ME, TOO.

ARTHAS AGAIN! A THOUSAND CURSES ON HIS NAME! NO PUNISHMENT COULD EVER BE ENOUGH FOR THIS BETRAYAL!
LORD UTHER—THE LIGHTBRINGER HIMSELF, THE PILLAR OF OUR ORDER—IS DEAD.
MANY OTHER PALADINS AS WELL. SOME OF OUR BEST FIGHTERS.
THOMAS, YOUR HAND! LET GO!
YOU MUST TAKE THE CHILDREN AND LEAVE.
I I CAN'T LOSE YOU I CAN'T.
VERY WELL, MY LOVE
WE'LL DO AS YOU ASK. WE'LL GO.

AH, THOMAS. THANK YOU FOR COMING. DID YOU SEE YOUR FAMILY OFF SAFELY?

I PUT THEM ON THE SHIP MYSELF

A STORM IS APPROACHING, BUT THE FLEET WILL BE SAFELY AT SEA BEFORE IT ARRIVES

SUCH PARTINGS CAN BE DIFFICULT

TRULY?

YOUR SUZANNAH HAS THE *HEART* OF A *WARRIOR*

MY WIFE DID NOT *WANT* TO GO

I COULD WISH SHE HAD THE HEART OF A *MOTHER* INSTEAD

BUT THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME

HAVE YOU NOT *FELT IT* WHEN YOU FIGHT THE SCOURGE?

WE FIGHT HARDEST TO *PROTECT* WHAT WE LOVE THE *MOST*.

HAVE YOU NOT THOUGHT OF YOUR FALLEN BRETHREN AND BEEN FILLED WITH *HOLY WRATH*?

WOULDN'T ANY MAN REACT WITH *RIGHTEOUS FURY* TO AN EVIL THAT THREATENED HIS LOVED ONES?

YES I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT I JUST WANT MY FAMILY TO BE SAFE

OF COURSE YOU DO STILL. WE'RE NEVER PERFECTLY SAFE UNTIL WE'RE *DEAD*, ARE WE?

AND IN THESE DREAD TIMES? NOT EVEN *THEN*

ON THAT NOTE, BROTHER

LET US SPEAK OF THE *FUTURE*

Many of the orders mightiest paladins had fallen in battle. And yet the ragged knights of the Silver Hand continued their struggle

The forces of the Lich King showed no signs of relenting in their campaign to ravage Lordaeron.

A supplicant's sleeping chamber in the Scarlet Monastery

KRRSH

I am merely an *instrument of your will*, O Light!

For four arduous years the paladins here fighting

WHIP

DI

Vengeance is yours. All I ask is that you let *my flesh* be *your vessel!*

FWICK

...united mostly due to the efforts of one man— a great man--Highlord Alexandros Mograine

WHIP

I will purge myself until I am *worthy!* until I am *clean!!*

SLAT

And then, at last, that man died.

Fill me with your holy wrath.

The Silver Hand was shattered

An order whose members vowed to cleanse the world of the undead, no matter the cost

In its wake a new order was born: the Scarlet Crusade

And the cost seemed to grow higher with every battle

So high, in fact, that eventually the Scarlet Crusade stopped counting.
SCARLET CRUSADE, INCOMING!
PLAGUE CHECK! EVERYONE PREPARE FOR ANOTHER PLAGUE CHECK!
NOW, THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANY TR-TROUBLE YOU CRUSADERS ARE ALL WELCOME HERE
INDEED. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS AGAINST THE PLAGUE.
YOU'LL FIND NO SICKNESS IN MY TOWN. WE'LL SUBMIT TO ANY TESTS YOU LIKE!
IT'S JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
ALTHOUGH IT GRIEVES ME TO SAY THIS, I FEAR WE HAVE ARRIVED TOO LATE
TOO LATE? I SEE NO SIGN OF PLAGUE
THE PLAGUE WAS FIRST SPREAD THROUGH TAINTED WHEAT BUT THE LICH KING HAS SINCE RESORTED TO OTHER METHODS.
NEW TRAITORS JOIN HIS FORCES WITH EVERY PASSING YEAR, DRAWN BY THE PROMISE OF IMMORTALITY
IMMORTALITY, BAH! MOCK LIKE SLAVERY WITHOUT END.
YET MANY HAVE LOST THEIR FAITH IN THE LIGHT. MANY HAVE CHOSEN TO SAVE THEIR LIVES BY SACRIFICING THEIR SOULS.
THE ENEMY HAS GROWN IN SUBTLETY SO TOO, MUST WE.

LOOK AT THEM CLOSELY, BROTHER, AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE
INDEED REFUGEES FROM THE SCOURGE DRAWN HERE BY THE PROMISE OF SHELTER WORD MUST HAVE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE
I SEE CLOTHING OF MANY DIFFERENT TYPES
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THE TOWN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SPARED SO FAR THESE PEOPLE LOOK CLEAN AND WELL FED
AN UNUSUAL SIGHT IN THESE TIMES, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE TOWN'S FLIMSY DEFENSES
FEW GUARDS AND THEY ALL LOOK YOUNG. INEXPERIENCED
EXACTLY. I DOUBT THEY COULD REPEL EVEN ONE ATTACK BY THE UNDEAD. HOW COULD THEY HAVE GUIDED OTHERS TO SAFETY HERE?
THESE ARE NO BATTLE-HARDENED VETERANS. THEY'RE FRIGHTENED CHILDREN COWERING IN THE DARK.
BY WHAT MEANS COULD THEY SECURE THE SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN A TOWN OF THIS SIZE?
YOU'RE SAYING WE HAVE ANOTHER SCOURGE CONSPIRATOR ON OUR HANDS.
A CREATURE OF GREAT PATIENCE AND COLD-BLOODED CUNNING.
SOMEONE WHO KEPT THE TOWN SUPPLIED AND PROTECTED FOR WEEKS, EVEN MONTHS...
WHILE HE SPREAD THE WORD THAT THIS TOWN WAS A HAVEN FROM THE PLAGUE
HE WAS WAITING FOR THE TOWN TO REACH CRITICAL MASS, ALL THE WHILE PLOTTING TO UNLEASH THE PLAGUE
YES, THOMAS. AND GIVEN THE SIZE OF THIS TOWN, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE PROCESS IS ALREADY IN MOTION.

I AM A FOOL

YOU ARE *HUMAN.* YOU SUFFERED THE CONSEQUENCES OF RIVENDARE'S BETRAYAL FIRSTHAND AND YOU FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO FACE THAT PAIN A SECOND TIME

IT'S ONLY NATURAL

SOMEDAY I HOPE TO SHARE YOUR UNFLINCHING SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

YOU WILL, BROTHER

BUT FOR NOW WE MUST *ACT.* YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT THESE PEOPLE WILL SUFFER

THEY ARE THE *WALKING DEAD,* AND THEY DO NOT EVEN *KNOW.*

THE BEST WE CAN HOPE TO DO IS GIVE THEM A *CLEAN DEATH.*

GOOD MAN

CRUNCH

MOMMY!!

SQUELCH

NO!!

FRASH

DAMN YOU ALL!!

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS! I DON'T HAVE THE PLAGUE!

I'M NOT SICK! PLEASE!

F

TWO MONTHS LATER, AN HOUR'S RIDE NORTH OF DAESOM'S TEARS...

SHUNK

SLICE

KRAAAK!

BY THE LIGHT...!

IT C CAN'T BE GINA?

CAN'T BE. THEY'RE NOT HERE. THEY'RE SAFE.

NOT HERE BEFORE KALIMDOR FELL

WHAT IF THE STORM ARRIVED TOO SOON?

THE FLEET WAS TOO FAR TO THE EAST TO LEAVE THE HARBOR

WHAT IF THE FLEET WAS DAMAGED, THEREFORE COULD DEPART?

IN THE END IT DIDN'T MATTER. THERE WOULD BE NO SHIP RIGHT FOR US TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE

THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY ROOM TO SPARE ON THE OTHER SHIPS

TOO MANY PEOPLE TAKING THEIR CHANCES WITH KALIMDOR

FORCED TO STAY IN LORDAERON

TAKING REFUGE WHEREVER THEY COULD

NO WAY TO LET THEM KNOW

NO THEY *AREN'T!* THIS IS... THIS IS *MY FAMILY!!*

WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

STOP!

CLANG

WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING?!*

DON'T TOUCH THEM! *THEY'RE INFECTED!*

GRAB HIM!!

Yet Thomas found no comfort in the familiar words. How could he?

LIGHT HAVE MERCY! MERCY!

He had long since come to believe

I CAN'T HOLD HIM!!

A LITTLE HELP HERE!

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SAFE!!!

...that the Light had no mercy to give.

OUTSIDE THOMAS' SLEEPING CHAMBER IN THE SCARLET MONASTERY.
NO CHANGE OUR BROTHER IS STILL LOST IN HIS GRIEF.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE SHOCK, FINDING OUT THAT HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE INFECTED.

AND BEING FORCED TO END THEIR SUFFERING HIMSELF. .
WELL, THAT IS A TRAGEDY MANY OF US CAN EMPATHIZE WITH ALL TOO WELL.

GRAND CRUSADER I FEAR THERE MAY BE MORE AT WORK HERE THAN SIMPLE GRIEF
EXPLAIN
THE THINGS WE'VE HEARD COMING FROM HIS ROOM THEY'RE NOT NORMAL SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T EVEN SOUND HUMAN.

LAUGHING AND HOWLING AND SOBBING ALL TANGLED UP TOGETHER
AND THOSE CREEPY RHYMES! THINGS THAT STAY IN YOUR HEAD FOR DAYS AND GIVE YOU BAD DREAMS.

THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. WE ALL DEAL WITH GRIEF IN DIFFERENT WAYS.
IF YOU SAY SO
THEN MAY HIS SUFFERING COME TO AN END SOON

ON THE OTHER HAND IT DOES SEEM THAT *SOLITUDE* ISN'T PROVING HELPFUL

PERHAPS A CHANGE OF PACE IS IN ORDER

TODAY IS *HALLOW'S END*, AND WE MUST KEEP LORDAERON'S TRADITIONS ALIVE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THIS STRUGGLE

WHAT ELSE AFTER ALL, ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

IN THIS CASE OF COURSE I REFER TO *THE WICKERMAN*

AH I SURPRISE YOU TAKE IT YOU TWO NEVER SPENT *HALLOW'S END* NEAR CAPITAL CITY?

THEN YOU MISSED QUITE A SIGHT A GIANT STRAW EFFIGY THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER LORDAERON CAME TO SEE

IT WAS SAID THAT IF YOU THREW A BRANCH ONTO THE WICKERMAN'S FIRE YOU COULD BURN AWAY WHATEVER YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE WITH YOU INTO WINTER

FEARS, SORROWS, OLD LOVES NEW HATES-- YOU COULD PUT THEM *ALL* BEHIND YOU

YES, THE MORE I THINK ON IT, THE MORE CERTAIN I AM HALLOW'S END WILL BE THE *END* OF THOMAS *SUFFERING*.

IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO REMEMBER *LOVED ONES* WE HAVE *LOST*

AND TO LET THEIR *MEMORIES GO*.

And so Grand Crusader Daethrohan persuaded Thomas to join the fight.

After all, Lordaeron needed heroes.

As Daethrohan had hoped, Thomas embraced the heat of battle.

When his frenzied attacks drew the Scourge's attention the Scarlet Crusaders rallied to defend their comrade.

Only to learn that he was no longer the comrade

DUPED FOR FAR TOO LONG BY LIES, I SEE YOU NOW THROUGH CLEARER EYES!

INFECTED ALL, YOU TOO SHALL FALL; THE LIGHT, WIN OUT THROUGH YOUR DEMISE!

I'LL MAKE OF THIS LAND A FUNERAL PYRE

...AND END YOUR CURSE WITH CLEANSING FIRE!!

CHOP

And so the Scarlet Crusade was forced to cut down one of its own.

Later that night, outside Lorgg's sleeping chamber in the Scarlet Monastery

I'LL PREPARE THOMAS' BODY FOR BURNING

ALTHOUGH HIS MIND WAS SHATTERED BY GRIEF, HE FOUGHT BRAVELY FOR OUR CAUSE.

REMEMBER HIM IN YOUR *PRAYERS*.

But prayers from the Scarlet Crusade broke an obscene jest - the order's murderous deeds, a violation of the Light

A travesty that never failed to amuse the malevolent being who had steered the order since its inception.

Corrupt to its core, the Scarlet Crusade could give rise to nothing but evil.

HAHAHAHAHA

Little wonder, then, that the only burning Thomas would know that night...

... would be the burning of raw fel energies as they raged along his body, changing it to suit the Dreadlord Balnazzar's twisted purposes.

SCREAM, YOU DOGS! CURSE MY NAME!

I'LL SET YOUR MATCHSTICK HOMES AFLAME!

PERHAPS THE WORMS STILL FIND YOU SWEET

YOU'RE NOTHING TO ME BUT ROTTING MEAT!!

FWSSH

I FOUGHT FOR YOU...
I FOUGHT IN VAIN
NOW SCATTER, SCURRY, SHRIEK IN PAIN!
NO MERCY ON THIS NIGHT ABIDES
ON HALLOW'S END, WHEN THE HORSEMAN RIDES!
END

WARCRAFT LEGENDS
VOLUME FIVE

NIGHTMARES

WRITTEN BY RICHARD A. KNAAK

PENCILS BY ROB TEN PAS
INKS BY WALTER GOMEZ LEANDRO
& ARIEL PACE
TONES BY WALTER GOMEZ

LETTERS BY MORRY HOLLOWELL

It is said that the world of Azeroth cannot exist without the dragons...just as the dragons cannot exist without it...
After reshaping Azeroth, the star spanning titans chose the dragons--greatest of the young world's creatures--as its guardians.
Each represented a powerful force. Red being life, bronze time, blue magic, black the earth, stone and deep places.
And for green...whose mistress was the great leviathan Ysera...there was not only sovereignty over the lush wilds of the world...

But the watching over of all Azeroth from a mystical place that was lost, known as the Emerald Dream.
A place barely touched by most of those of the mortal world, save through their own sleep manifested imaginings
Touching any sleeper...
Human, orc, tauren, dwarf...indeed, all creatures.
...as if with intentions of their own.
Dreams much darker than ever before...dreams now spreading...
Until of late, that is...until the sudden coming of deeper, more vivid dreams...
...across an unsuspecting world...
And in that lies the greatest danger.
For there are some dreams from which even the bravest would run...
MMMPH!
NIGHTMARES

The BAD BLOOD BETWEEN the BRONZEBEARD DWARVES AND the DARK IRONS SPANNED NEARLY THREE CENTURIES...

FWAPPACK

...WITH MOST OF IT DUE TO the TREACHERY OF the ANCIENT DARK IRON RULER, THAURISSAN, AND his SORCEROSS QUEEN, MODGUD

ONWARD!! WE'VE GOT THE DAMNED *DARK IRONS* ON THE RUN!! 'TIS TIME TO FINISH THE *FILTHY TRAITORS!!*

I'LL BE HAVIN NONE OF YOUR *TRICKS*, DARK IRON!

WHERE'S MY *DAUGHTER?!* 'TIS *YOUR* ONLY CHANCE!

IF YOU'VE DONE SOMETHIN' TO HER IN HONOR OF YOUR ACCURSED FIRELORD, RAGNAROS--

ON THE CONTRARY · SHE'S STILL IN *MY BED*... WHERE SHE *LONGS* TO *STAY*...!!

CURSE YOU, YOU *DEVIL!!*

CLANG

DAGRAN, YOU *COWARD!!* COME AND *FACE ME!!*

The WAR of the THREE HAMMERS had ENDED THAURISSAN AND MODGUD...

I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU OLD ONE

BUT THEIR LEGACY of HATRED AND ENVY of the BRONZEBEARDS LIVED ON TO THIS DAY IN the PRESENT RULER...DAGRAN.

...AND he HAD FOUND the ONE SURE PATH to SEIZING the BRONZEBEARD THRONE

...COME AND *EMBRACE* YOUR *SON-IN-LAW!!*

SON-IN-LAW?! *KIDNAPPER* AND *THIEF'S* MORE LIKE IT!!

YOU'LL *PAY* FOR PUTTIN' YOUR *FOUL HANDS* ON HER!!

GYAAAH!!

THWACK

MOIRA!!

HERE I AM, FATHER

NEVER MIND ! WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS! COME ON!

MOIRA.

WHAT'S THAT DEVIL DONE

WHERE WHERE'S DAGRAN?

THE DOG'S *DEAD*, MOIRA NO MORE NEED TO WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT HIM.

DEAD ?

AVE THE FIEND'LL NEVER PUT HIS GRIMY HANDS ON YOU AGAIN!

RAGNAROS'LL HAVE TO FIND HIMSELF *ANOTHER PUPPET*...

BUT WHAT ABOUT *MY SON*?

NO SON OF DAGRAN THAURISSAN'LL SIT ON THE THRONE OF IRONFORGE

I M SORRY, GIRL BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT HAS TO BE HE'LL HAVE TO BE *BANISHED FOREVER* FROM THE KINGDOM.

YES, FATHER *I KNOW.*

SHINK

HNH?!!

MOIRA ? WHAT'VE YOU *DONE?!*

D-DAGRAN. H-HE HE'S PUT A SP-SPELL ON YOU..

THE ONLY "SPELL" WAS *LOVE.*

THE THE P-PRINCESS IS UNDER DAGRAN'S SPELL T-T-TAKE HER GENTLY INTO C-C CUSTODY.

I'VE GOT TO *PROTECT MY CHILDREN,* FATHER..

YOU KNOW HOW IT HAS TO BE

WH-WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU *D-DOIN'?!*

THEY'RE HONORING THEIR *FUTURE KING,* OF COURSE

I I SW-SWORE NO NO SON OF DAGRAN WOULD-S-SIT WOULD SIT ON THE IRONFORGE TH THRONE

UNNGH!!

THEN, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY FATHER FENRAN HERE ONLY INTENDS TO *WATCH* OVER IT..

FENRAN? NO HE SHOULD BE A CHILD BUT HE'S GROWN.

I I I DON'T UNDERSTAND

THE *THRONE* WILL GO TO HIS *HALF-BROTHER* INSTEAD

"*BROTHER*"?!! DAGRAN'S F-FORCED *ANOTHER BASTARD* ON YOU?!!

OH, NO ! I SAID "HALF BROTHER"; THIS ISN'T *DAGRAN'S*..

I'VE BEEN GRANTED AN EVEN *GREATER GLORY*..

FENRAN WILL HELP ME WATCH OVER THE THRONE UNTIL OUR *GREAT LORD'S CHILD* IS READY FOR IT. WHICH WON'T BE LONG.

MOIRA! YOU C-CAN'T BE SERIOUS! 'TIS TOO MONSTROUS! IT C-CAN'T BE THAT FIEND'S SPAWN!!
OH, YES, FATHER
THE BABY'S FATHER IS RAGNAROS.
AND THROUGH HIS SON, RAGNAROS WILL CLEANSE ALL AZEROTH STARTING WITH OUR PEOPLE!
YOU ALWAYS SPOKE OF THE NEED OF KEEPING OUR BLOOD PURE, NO MATTER WHAT!
NOW I FINALLY UNDERSTAND AND CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN...
FRRSSSH
AFTER ALL THERE'S NOTHING PURER THAN FIRE. NOT EVEN BRONZEBEARD DWARVES.

King Magni's scream is part of his nightmare and so goes unheard.
But he is not alone in his distress
For others are dreaming this night...
others with tragedies of their own.

AEDELAS BLACKMOORE!! YOU HAVE NO HOPE!!

SURRENDER OR DIE!!

TRAITOROUS CHILD!! I RAISED YOU!! I GAVE YOU *PURPOSE*!! I LET YOU *FIGHT* FOR *ME* AND *THIS* IS HOW I AM *REPAID*!!

YOU RAISED ME HUMAN--BUT ONLY *AFTER* TAKING ME AS AN INFANT FROM MY *MURDERED PARENTS!*

YOU TRAINED ME AS A SERVANT AND GLADIATOR WHOSE LIFE COULD BE CUT OFF AT YOUR MEREST WHIM!

I WAS A *SLAVE!* BUT *NO MORE! SURRENDER!!* YOU AND ALL THOSE WITHIN WILL BE ALLOWED SAFE PASSAGE.

"ALL THOSE WITHIN"? AH! NOW WE KNOW WHAT YOU *TRULY* WANT FROM ME!

IT'S THE *WENCH* YOU WANT! I KNEW SHE'D BEEN IN YOUR BED!

TARETHA GREW UP BESIDE ME SHE IS MY *SISTER IN SPIRIT* AND THE ONLY *STAIN* UPON *HER HONOR* COMES FROM *YOU!!*

YOU STOLE HER FROM HER FATHER YOUR OWN SECRETARY! YOU FORCED HER TO BECOME YOUR MISTRESS! NO ONE USED HER BUT *YOU*, AEDELAS!!

SHE AND *SHE* ALONE IS THE REASON I *GRANT YOU THE CHANCE OF LIFE!!*

SEND HER OUT FIRST--AND SHE WILL LEAD THE REST OF YOU TO WHERE THE ALLIANCE CAN CLAIM YOU!

OH, I *INTENDED* TO SEND HER TO YOU FROM THE BEGINNING

AND SHOW YOU THE *FATE* OF ALL *TRAITORS!!*

TOS

NO WARCHIEF_

WARCHIEF! WHY DO YOU STAND STILL? DURNHOLDE IS OURS! BLACKMOORE'S TRAPPED!

DURNHOLDE

I WILL NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE...

WHY DID YOU FAIL ME, THRALL... YOU ALWAYS FA... ME YOU ARE NO LEADER, NO WARCHIEF. NO WARCHIEF...

BREAK THROUGH!! DO NOT TOUCH THE FEMALES, BUT ALL FIGHTERS MUST DIE!!

YAAAH!!

RAAAH!!

NO WARCHIEF_

NO WARCHIEF_

THIS TIME I WILL SAVE YOU, TARETHA! I SWEAR IT!

CLANG

TARETHA!

KLANG

TARETHA!!

NO DOORS WILL KEEP ME FROM HER—OR YOU AEDELAS!

TRAITOROUS SLAVE AFTER ALL I DID FOR YOU. I MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE.

GIVE ME TARETHA AND I MIGHT LET YOU LIVE

AND I WILL ALWAYS LIVE WITH THE SHAME OF THAT!

YOU KNOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO OBLIGE YOU. AS IF YOU WERE MY OWN SON...

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AS YOU SEE

YOU'VE FAILED ME AGAIN, THRALL! YOU KEEP FAILING EVERYONE...

NO. NOT AGAIN

DAMN YOU! DAMN YOU!!

YOU, A LEADER?! A LIBERATOR?! YOU'LL NEVER BE MORE THAN A MISERABLE SLAVE!!

A MISERABLE FAILURE...!!

THRALL ? DOES SOMETHING AIL YOU?!

DURNHOLDE KEEP...WHERE ?

OVER *THAT* DIRECTION WHERE IT SHOULD BE, WARCHIEF

YOU WERE SPEAKING OF TOMORROW'S BATTLE

THE BATTLE

NO. THIS TIME WE TAKE DURNHOLDE BY *STEALTH.*

SHARRK

MMMPH!!

BLACKMOORE HAS WELL-TRAINED MEN. BUT FORGETS I KNOW THEIR TRAINING, TOO.

GIVE NONE THE CHANCE TO MAKE A SOUND! DO WHATEVER YOU MUST

THAT WAY
EH?!

YOUR ONE CHANCE! WHERE IS THE WOMAN TARETHA FOXTON?!
I'M THEY THEY'RE TOGETHER! THE MASTER TOOK HER TO HIS CHAMBERS AN HOUR AGO!
HAS HE HAS HE SLAIN HER?!
WAH HAY! THOUGH HE TALK'S OF D-DOING IT IF DURWHOLDE'S DEFENSES ARE B-BREACHED
THWAK
SHE STILL LIVES. I'M FINALLY IN TIME!

GUARD THE HALL I MUST GO ALONE

AS YOU COMMAND..

THUNK

GLUK!!

AEDELAS!!

SURRENDER OR DIE!!

THRALL!

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME BACK, YOU TRAITOR!!

STAY BACK UNTIL I DEAL WITH HIM, TARETHA!

DEAL WITH ME? YOU?! YOU'RE NO HERO, NO LIBERATOR!
YOU'RE A BARBARIAN!! A BEAST!! A SLAVE WITH HIGH AMBITIONS AND NO HOPE
NYAAAH!!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!! I WILL WIN THIS TIME!
HAH!!
CHOP
I CAUGHT HIM HARD! I'VE SAVED YOU THIS TIME TAKETHA! I'VE FINALLY SUCCEEDED
NO, NO! AGAIN
YOU'VE FAILED ME AGAIN, THRALL. YOU'LL ALWAYS FAIL. THIS IS YOUR FAULT..
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT..
YOU ARE NO LEADER..
YOU NEVER WILL BE...
NOT AGAIN, I FAILED

LOST YOU. LOST EVERYTHING. NO LEADER. NO LIBERATOR. ALL LOST.

REMEMBER, THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL *INFECTED* WITH THE PLAGUE OF *UNDEATH* AND WILL *DIE SOON*, REGARDLESS!

Once there were two young lovers, a newly-trained paladin, and an apprentice mage.

WE MUST *PURGE STRATHOLME* TO *PROTECT* THE REMAINDER OF LORDAERON FROM THE *SCOURGE!*

WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE *TRULY INFECTED!*

WE CAN'T JUST *SLAUGHTER THEM* LIKE ANIMALS OUT OF *FEAR!*

Past regrets may stir the darkest dreams. And the warchief Thrall is not alone in past regrets.

Choices made in the waking world. Choices concerning the lives of many. Take those two apart.

Yet in dreams... choices can be changed.

WE DARE NOT TAKE THE *CHANCE*, JAINA! ONE COULD INFECT *HUNDREDS!* I WILL NOT ALLOW THIS MONSTROUS PLAGUE TO SPREAD!

An inaction or delayed action may often lead to personal tragedy...

Choices that could change history.

ARTHAS! ARE YOU *SURE* WE MUST DO THIS?!

...but it can also have more far-reaching consequences. Consequences to all of Azeroth.

MAY THE *LIGHT* HAVE *MERCY.*

BUT THEY'RE INNOCENT! AND THERE ARE CHILDREN, TOO!
THE INFECTED WILL KILL THOSE CHILDREN ANYWAY, JAINA WE OFFER THEM A KINDER FATE!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR DISCUSSION WE HAVE TO ACT NOW OR IT WILL BE TOO LATE!
AND PREVENT ARTHAS, PRINCE OF LORDAERON, FROM BECOMING A THING WORSE THAN THE SCOURGE.
IT'S DARK LORD THE LICH KING.
NO!! I DIDN'T MEAN TO--!!
JAINA PROUDMOORE HAS OFTEN WONDERED IF SHE HAD STAYED WITH ARTHAS, IF SHE HAD BELIEVED IN HIM, BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER, SHE COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS DIRE MOMENT
IT IS ALL RIGHT... YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO. JUST AS I WOULD'VE DONE. IT WAS ALL FOR THE BEST.
NOW, WE NEED TO GO AFTER MAL'GANIS...
" WHO HAS FLED TO NORTHREND "
ARTHAS, WE JUST CAN'T--
LOOK OUT!!
RAAARGH!!
GRAAAAH!!
UNNFH!!
ARTHAS! PLEASE ABANDON THIS QUEST! IT CONSUMES YOU!
I WILL DO ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PROTECT OUR KINGDOM! YOU FEEL THE SAME. YOUR PRESENCE HERE CONFIRMS IT!
I'M HERE BECAUSE BECAUSE I ALLOWED MY EMOTIONS TO BE MY GUIDE DESPITE WHAT I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT AS A MAGE. IT'S NOT LIKE ME.
YOU'RE STILL THE SAME PERSON YOU'RE STILL MY DEAREST JAINA YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, YOU'LL SEE!

ONCE WE DESTROY MAL'GANIS, IT WILL ALL WORK OUT

MURADIN HAS SPOKEN OF A POWERFUL RUNEBLADE FROSTMOURNE, HIDDEN HERE IN COLD NORTHREND, WHICH CAN SLAY THE DEMON!

I'VE BEEN HAVIN' ME DOUBTS ABOUT THAT SWORD MILORD SOMETHIN' ABOUT IT BEIN' HID OUT HERE DON'T FEEL RIGHT.

WE MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE! THE SWORD IS OUR KEY TO SAVING LORDAERON AND ALL THE REST OF AZEROTH!

NOW HURRY!! ONCE I WIELD IT, MAL'GANIS WILL -

[illegible]

FOUL DEMON!! IF ANYONE IS TO DIE HERE IT SHALL BE YOU!!

ARTHAS! YOU CAN'T DO THIS ON YOUR OWN! WAIT FOR US!! YOU'RE ONLY ENDANGERING YOURSELF!!

I'LL SAVE HIM, MY LADY!

GRAAR!!

RARRGH!!

AAAAH!!

NO!! NOW THEY'RE BOTH IN DANGER!!

RARRGH!!

GRAAR!!

HOW CAN I SAVE THEM BOTH?! ARTHAS MAY BE LORDAERON'S LAST HOPE... AZEROTH'S LAST HOPE...

...BUT MURADIN IS ONLY IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF ARTHAS'S RECKLESS CHARGE...!

YET...WITHOUT ARTHAS...WE ALL MAY BE LOST...
FWUMP
I'M SO SORRY, MURADIN...I HAVE TO SAVE HIM...I NEED TO SAVE HIM...
FRAAASH
HA!!
AAAAAAAH!!
OH, MURADIN...I'M SO SORRY...
CRY NOT OVER HIS LOSS OR THAT OF THOSE OF STRATHOLME, DEAREST JAINA! WE DID WHAT WE MUST!
TO FALTER NOW WOULD MEAN THAT THEIR SACRIFICES WERE IN VAIN! THROUGH MY ARM AND YOUR MAGIC, THEY'LL BE AVENGED!
PATHETIC FOOL! EVEN SHOULD YOU SLAY ME, I SERVE A MORE POWERFUL MASTER AGAINST WHOM YOU HAVE NO HOPE!
IN VAIN...YES...I SUPPOSE SO...WE MUST KEEP ON...
THOOM
THWOOSH
THWACK
WE HAVE HIM, JAINA!
THE DEMON LORD IS DEAD...AND THAT MUST BE WHERE FROSTMOURNE LIES!
WE'LL STILL NEED IT IF WE'RE TO HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST HIS MYSTERIOUS MASTER!
ARTHAS! WAIT!! FORGET THE SWORD!! MAL'GANIS IS DEAD AND WE'VE ALREADY SACRIFICED TOO MUCH!! LET THERE BE AN END TO IT FOR US!!
FRAAASH

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, DEAREST JAINA? WE STILL NEED FROSTMOURNE!
THERE!
THERE IT IS!
WAIT, ARTHAS! THERE'S SOMETHING INSCRIBED IN...IN KALIMAG... THE ELEMENTAL LANGUAGE! LET ME READ IT FIRST!
"WHOSOEVER TAKES UP THIS BLADE SHALL WIELD POWER ETERNAL. JUST AS THE BLADE RENDS FLESH, SO MUST POWER SCAR THE SPIRIT."
A DIRE WARNING! WE'D BEST HEED THIS, ARTHAS—
NO!!
WE STILL NEED IT TO FIGHT MAL'GANIS'S TRUE MASTER AND TO PUSH BACK THE SCOURGE! CURSED OR NOT--I WILL HAVE IT!!
I WILL GIVE ANYTHING, OR PAY ANY PRICE, IF ONLY I CAN SAVE MY PEOPLE!
KRAK
KRAK
ARTHAS WON'T LISTEN! AND HE SURELY ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THIS BLADE'S CURSE! IF HE SHOULD GRIP IT—
FWOOOM
ARTHAS!! WATCH OUT!!
I'M UNTOUCHED! YOU SEE?! THIS IS MEANT TO BE! THIS IS—
—TO BE YOUR TOMB, PRINCE OF LORDAERON!
UNGH!!
JAINA!!
I DON'T DARE STRIKE! I'LL DESTROY YOU, TOO!!
THE SWORD! IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE! WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME, I WILL NOT LET YOU DIE, MY LOVE!

SLASH

UNGH!

JAINA! JAINA!!

WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT--

HAVE NO FEAR, DEAREST...YOU'RE SAFE...I DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE TO KEEP YOU FROM A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...

AND NOW, I CAN MAKE THE WORLD RIGHT FOR US...FOR EVERYONE...

AND YOU, MY LOVE, WILL HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE... AS FIRST AMONG MY SUBJECTS...

Jaina had triumphed. She had saved Arthas from his terrible destiny...there would be no Lich King to send his evil forth over the world.

But there would be a queen...

AND FIRST AMONG MY UNDEAD...

A more terrifying, more powerful queen...for now the magic of Jaina Proudmoore is also at the darkness's command...

What remains of Jaina Proudmoore screams for release, but none is forthcoming...
And even though this is naught but a dream and she would wish to wake...she cannot.
They cannot...for the true Nightmare is just beginning...
And spreading...
And the one hope for they and all Azeroth...lays in a night elf...the Archdruid Malfurion Stormrage...
Someone already lost himself for more than two desperate years... lost and with no hope for release from his own terrible nightmares...
END